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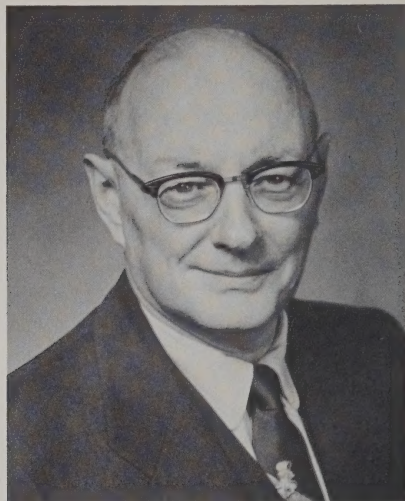




*Band in Over*

# *Historic* MAUMEE VALLEY

BY RALPH E. PHELPS, TOLEDO BLADE STAFF WRITER



RALPH E. PHELPS



### *About the Author:*

Ralph E. Phelps, a newspaperman for 40 years, has long enjoyed a private reputation as a historian. Among his colleagues in the Blade city room, his encyclopedic knowledge of Toledo's history has been regarded as an almost infallible index of reference.

Of particular value in a newspaper office is the fact that his memory appears at its keenest in recalling events of crime.

The last couple of years, however, have revealed his interest in things past in a new light. He has become more than an unofficial historian for the decades of Toledo history which he himself has witnessed and reported. His lifetime hobby of collecting scraps and pieces of information about local history, dating back to frontier days and the Indian wars, has borne fruit in a continuing series of stories about the days when the white man was still a newcomer to northwestern Ohio; about episodes in this area linked with the Civil War, and about unusual experiences in the lives of famous personalities who have come this way.

The fascination which Mr. Phelps has long felt for this kind of history may well stem from the fact that he grew up in an army family, as the son of a cavalry officer. As a boy, he heard stories of the final campaigns in the opening of the west. His father,

for instance, once obtained a description of Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn from an Indian chief who actually had taken part in the massacre.

Mr. Phelps was born in Urbana, O. His newspaper career began on the Urbana Citizen, and was interrupted to serve in the U. S. Army in World War I. After the war he worked on the Sandusky Star-Journal and the Dayton Journal before coming to the Toledo Blade in 1920. He has been a reporter except for the period from 1922 to 1934, when he served as The Blade's first radio editor.

His travels in gaining material for his historical series have covered several thousand miles, for the most part in Ohio.

The articles Mr. Phelps has written were responsible in part for The Blade's receiving in 1956 an award from The American Association for State and Local History for "promoting a better understanding of our national heritage at a local level."

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# PREFACE

Northwestern Ohio and the Maumee Valley are rich in historic lore. It is not generally known, but within that region the flags of three nations have flown; a decisive battle was fought with the Indians, and it played a vital part in the struggle to open our country to settlers.

Reprinted in this book is a series of articles published recently in *The Toledo Blade*, and made available now in this form in response to many requests.

The articles include the story of the Battle of Lake Erie, and how a young lieutenant defied the British and saved Fort Stephenson for the American cause.

The exciting canal boat days are recalled vividly, as are the terrible sieges of Fort Meigs.

Civil War historians will enjoy particularly an account of the prison camp on Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay.

Several articles deal with General Anthony Wayne's successful campaign against the Indians, and one describes the decisive battle of the Thames River in Canada, which broke Britain's hold on the Northwestern Territory.

We hope that, through this book, readers will better understand the fascinating past of Northwestern Ohio.

Many of the photographs in this booklet were furnished by courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society and Anthony Wayne Parkway Board.

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## *Lower Maumee Valley Is Rich in Historic Associations*

Drive south of Maumee along U.S. Rt. 24 and you will cross the scene of one of America's most decisive conflicts—the Battle of Fallen Timbers, where Gen. Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians. The date was Aug. 20, 1794.

From the standpoint of the number of men involved—the number killed or wounded—the battle was just a skirmish, but its impact upon the Indians and their relations with the British was immense. General Wayne had been ordered into the Northwest Territory by President Washington to subdue the Indians, break the power of the British, and, if possible, open the territory for future settlement.

Two previous expeditions had ended in horrible failure. Gen. Josiah Harmar and Gen. Arthur St. Clair led armies into ambush and destruction. General Wayne was selected for the job because of his military ability; he had impressed General Washington at the storming of Stony Point during the Revolutionary War, and was considered a hard-hitting military leader.

General Wayne was too good a soldier to take the Indians lightly. He well knew that the defeats of Harmar and St. Clair were due to superb fighting ability

and careful planning upon the part of the British and Indians. General Wayne came west with instructions to try no warlike methods if peaceful gestures would succeed. He intended to follow instructions—but he also built forts and roads, and trained his troops.

On Christmas, 1793, General Wayne's army reached the site of the defeat of General St. Clair. There was built Fort Recovery. By the end of July, 1794, General Wayne had discovered the Indians did not intend making peace. So he pushed on, built Fort Adams near the present site of Celina, and Fort Defiance at the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize rivers.

General Wayne was fully aware that he was headed into heavily populated Indian country. That was evidenced by the fields of corn and vegetables, the Indian villages—all deserted. There he made his last peaceful gesture, and when it was spurned, started his army down the Maumee River. Leaving his baggage at Fort Defiance, General Wayne arrived at the head of the rapids, less than a mile from Waterville, near the Roche de Boeuf. There he built Fort Deposit, deposited his final supplies, and, with his men stripped for action, pushed down the river.

It was 7 a.m. on Aug. 20, 1794, when General Wayne left Fort Deposit. A light rain was falling as his mounted legion pushed down the west bank of the river. Four hours later the troops came in contact with the



Indians. The battle was joined. General Wayne's troops were stretched out about two miles westward from the river bank.

When the mounted legion met the Indians, several of Wayne's men were killed and others wounded. The remainder dropped back to meet the main force, coming up. The battle site was that of the Indians—not that of General Wayne. It was ideally suited for Indian fighting. A tornado had leveled hundreds of trees from behind which the Indians fired.

The Legion formed into two lines—the right anchored on the river, protected by the dragoons and riflemen. The First, Third and Fourth Sub-Legions formed in a line which extended at right angles with the river, across the meadow, up the steep hillside, atop which now runs U.S. 24, and then on to the plain. The Indians formed in three lines.

The Indians planned to use the same strategy that had won them victories over Harmar and St. Clair. They intended flanking General Wayne's men, but the Kentucky riflemen and dragoons broke up the plan. Meanwhile General Wayne's men attacked so vigorously that the Indians fled from their cover, and down the river toward Fort Miami. For two miles, the Americans pursued the Indians.

When the Indians arrived at Fort Miami, they hoped the British would help, but the British closed the fort's

gates and told the Indians they could not find sanctuary there. The panicky Indians then fled down the river. The battle lasted less than 45 minutes. The Americans lost 33 men on the field of battle, but after the conflict 13 more died of wounds. It is estimated 1,500 Indians took part in the battle, but no one ever will know how many were killed or wounded.

The Battle of Fallen Timbers proved the Indians could be beaten by American soldiers adequately led. It also proved that the link between the British and Indians was not unbreakable. The failure of the British to give shelter to the beaten Indians came as a shock to the Indians. For the first time they were made aware that they could not depend on their red-coated allies. They realized that their only course was to sue for peace—and sue is what they did.

On the battle site, just off Rt. 24, in a park not yet completely landscaped, there is a beautiful marker, bearing the names of those who fell in the conflict. It was erected in 1929 with funds donated by the people of the Maumee Valley. Close by is famous Turkey Foot Rock, moved there last summer by the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board from its original location on River Road between Maumee and Waterville.

Even if there were no man-made marker on the Fallen Timbers battlefield, Turkey Foot rock, steeped in history, and tradition, of itself well could fulfill that

mission. The weatherbeaten boulder has many legends pertaining to it. Just where the history of the rock ends and legend begins is unknown. Legend tells us that the Ottawa chief, Turkey Foot, was killed standing on the boulder while rallying his men during the battle.

### FORT MEIGS

Fort Meigs, scene of two great sieges during the War of 1812, may be proposed without apology as one of the nation's most historic places.

Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, united the Indians of the Northwest Territory in 1811 with the view of driving the white settler from the area. It was on the banks of the Wabash River at Tippecanoe, Ind., that they met Gen. William Henry Harrison, then governor of Indiana Territory, in battle. The Indians were defeated, the Prophet was driven from the country by his comrades, and Tecumseh offered his services to the British, who promised speedy deliverance from the Americans.

General Harrison decided to construct a fort on the east bank of the Maumee River, just south of the present town of Perrysburg. The fort was begun in Feb., 1813, and completed in April. It was named in honor of Return Jonathan Meigs, then governor of Ohio. The British military commander, General Proctor, annoyed by the act, decided to reduce Fort Meigs as soon as the

ice cleared from Lake Erie and Maumee Bay.

General Proctor arrived in the area on April 26, 1813, and proceeded to Fort Miami, a mile below Fort Meigs on the west side of the river. Fort Miami was strengthened and new batteries set up, while nearby



*Turkey Foot Rock*

Tecumseh and his warriors camped. On April 27, 1813, the British opened fire from the siege batteries.

For three days, solid shot and shell poured into Fort

Meigs. The Americans slept when they could, and ate in bombproof shelters. On the third day of the siege, the British opened up with two new batteries, built just 250 yards from Fort Meigs. On the fourth day, the Americans were asked to surrender but General Harrison refused. He had sent for help and hoped it would arrive before the fort was reduced by the heavy gunfire.

On May 4, 1,200 Kentucky militiamen arrived. They spiked the British siege guns on the west side, although they did not put them out of commission permanently. Elated over their victory, one group of Kentuckians pursued the Indians, only to fall into an ambush. During a lull in the firing to permit burying of the dead and exchanging of prisoners, General Harrison was able to get much needed supplies into the fort.

The British rallied and counter attacked. They recaptured the siege guns, which they repaired, and then resumed firing on Fort Meigs. But since victory did not come quickly, Tecumseh's Indians lost their enthusiasm for the siege and left for home. This desertion caused General Proctor to lift the siege and on May 9, 1813, he and his men embarked and returned to Canada.

General Proctor and Tecumseh returned to Fort Miami 10 days later and resumed the siege of Fort Meigs. Firing continued from July 20 to July 28. On the 28th, an all-out attack was made on Fort Meigs. The British and Indians attacked by land; Proctor's

gunboats fired from the river. But the results were inconclusive and the British Army gave up.

The two sieges cost the lives of 81 Americans; 189 others were wounded. Many of the American soldiers killed in the siege were buried on the site of the fort. Some of their graves are marked.

There are at present eight markers within the fort boundaries. The grand traverse, or large earthen embankment, facing Fort Miami was 900 feet long, 20 feet wide at the base and 12 feet high. There also are other shorter traverses. Markers show three blockhouses, the powder magazine, the grand battery, little battery, and Croghan's battery. The grand battery mounted 4 18-pounders. Lieutenant John McCullough, who is buried nearby, was killed there while talking with General Harrison. The little battery had 18-pounders, too. Croghan's battery was built by Major George Croghan, who later achieved fame for his defense of Fort Stephenson, Fremont.

In the 1930s, with WPA help, the fort site was made into a recreational center. Now the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board and Ohio Historical Society of Northwestern Ohio want to restore the fort as a truly historical site.

They hope to have a large museum built on the grounds, and to mark more points of historical interest. If possible, they also would like to move the roadway

that cuts through the fort so that eventually the visitor will see Fort Meigs in its original outlines. The beautiful obelisk marking the fort site would be untouched.

#### DUDLEY MASSACRE

Driving by the Lucas County Library on River Rd., you will see a marker announcing it as the site of the Dudley Massacre, which took place in 1813 during the first siege of Fort Meigs, across the Maumee.

Gen. Green Clay and 1,200 Kentuckians were the reinforcements awaited by Harrison. When General Clay and his men arrived, General Harrison decided on a surprise attack. He ordered Clay to take 800 of his men, cross the river at daybreak, and silence the British battery there. They then were to return to Fort Meigs. General Clay, his subordinate, Col. William Dudley, and his force executed the attack. The British guns were spiked by the Kentuckians, who drove ramrods down their muzzles. But as they were about to complete the job, the Indians appeared on the scene. Colonel Dudley's men could not resist the temptation. They gave chase, as the Indians expected them to do, and fell into an ambush. Within a few minutes the Kentuckians were surrounded and cut to pieces. About 200 were killed and 350 captured.

The prisoners were taken into the British stockade, where the maddened Indians pounced on the defenseless men with knives and tomahawks. A general slaugh-

ter might have resulted if it had not been for the intervention of Chief Tecumseh. As for the British, they did nothing to protect the Kentuckians. Several days later 45 bodies were found buried by the Americans. Their rashness had been costly.

#### FORT MIAMI

Probably nowhere in American history will you find the fortunes and misfortunes of two forts so entwined as those of Fort Meigs and Fort Miami.

A trading post was first established on the Maumee River about where Fort Miami later was built. In 1781 the British built a small fort at the site as an outpost in the defense of Detroit, but it was permitted to decay. On April 8, 1794, a ship from Detroit entered the Maumee River, bearing Col. John Graves Simcoe, lieutenant governor of Upper Canada; Col. Alexander McKee and his son, Capt. Thomas McKee, and several engineers. Although Colonel McKee suggested building another fort on the site of the old outpost, Colonel Simcoe decided to move closer to the bay.

A few days later a detachment of the Royal Artillery and three companies of the 24th Infantry arrived to build a new and more powerful fort. Outposts also were established on Turtle Island in the bay, and on Roche de Boeuf a short distance upstream. The British had come with every intention of making Fort Miami



one of its most important installations in the Northwest Territory.

Four 9-pounders and 4 6-pounders were ordered for defense of the fort. The barracks formed a part of the rampart. They were roofed with logs 12 inches thick, and those on the longer faces of the work had loopholes for firing. The bastions had casemated flanks. Each bastion had six embrasures. Work on the fort was slow due partly to sickness among the soldiers. Upon the urging of Col. Richard England, the commanding officer, some of the guns were finally mounted.

As General Wayne advanced, the fort was reinforced by soldiers from Detroit and Canada. At the time General Wayne defeated the Indians at Fallen Timbers, the fort's garrison numbered about 200 men. General Wayne's men paraded in front of the fort, practically daring the garrison to come out and fight, but the British refused. Finally the Americans left.

What General Wayne could not do, malaria did. It felled most of the garrison. The British, fearful Wayne would return, strengthened the fort. The Indians signed the Treaty of Greene Ville Aug. 3, 1795, ceding most of the present state of Ohio, and patches of ground surrounding forts, including Fort Miami. So the British prepared to evacuate. Early in July, 1796, they left. When General Wayne visited the site later he found four bastions, a water battery, three bombproofs for

soldiers and one for provisions, thirteen log buildings, two shops, a store and bakehouse.

The fort was abandoned in 1798, then reoccupied for a short period in 1799. In 1813 the British reoccupied the site and rebuilt it for the two sieges of Fort Miami. Then once more it was abandoned.

Fort Miami literally sank into obscurity. The buildings decayed. The casements collapsed. Trees were felled, the brush cut and what had been a wilderness became fields where grain was grown and cattle grazed. By 1942 Fort Miami was only a historic memory. For years the site had been held by a bank as collateral for a \$20,000 loan. When it was about to be sold to a private owner as a place for his home, historical societies became interested in saving it as a historic site.

Ursula Wolcott Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and others acquired it and gave it to the Toledo Metropolitan Park Board. In 1951, title was transferred to the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society for a state park. Now the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board would like to restore it.

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

In some respects the Wolcott mansion is historically the most famous home in the lower Maumee Valley. Situated on River Rd., just south of the Edison Club, it

is a building of unusual appearance, its two-story veranda especially marking it. It was built in 1827, the first building of its kind to be constructed south of Detroit, but its history really could be said to extend back many more years. The builder was Judge James Wolcott.

### *Famous Old Buildings in the Area*

When just a 12-year old boy, William Wells was captured by the Indians. Eventually he was adopted by the tribe and married Sweet Breeze, daughter of Chief Little Turtle, who was one of the Indian leaders in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. One of their daughters, Mary Wells, in 1821, married Judge Wolcott, and together they built this home on the 300 acres of land bought from the government at \$1.25 an acre.

The walls are of black walnut logs, faced with lap siding. It has 4 rooms and at the time it was built, its sheds extended from the highway back to some stock pens. It is said Judge Wolcott used to ride his horse directly into the center hall of the mansion.

Mrs. Wolcott brought with her many trophies, including a ceremonial sword believed to have been presented to her father when he and Little Turtle were

entertained by President Washington. The house also had the first piano brought to the Northwest.

Among the features of this beautiful home are the winding stairs and colonial light fixtures. In more recent years, many persons have called the place the Hull home, but historians still refer to it as the Wolcott Mansion.

The Columbian House in Waterville takes its place with the Oliver House and Boody House among the historic hotels in this area. It was built in 1828 by John Pray, who laid out Waterville in 1830. It is an excellent example of colonial architecture as it exists in Ohio. In fact, the Federal Government now has on file a complete set of its plans for that reason.

Fourteen-inch beams of hand-hewn and pegged black walnut were used in its construction. The large room on the first floor was used originally for Indian trade, and there was a ballroom on the third floor. The Columbian House was a popular stagecoach stop and trading center for years. A second-floor room was once used as a jail. Like many old residences and hostleries, Columbian House has its murder legend. This is to the effect that once a guest in the hotel disappeared, that years later a farmer confessed the murder and the skeleton was found where he said it was.

In its long life, the Columbian House has been a tearoom, a drugstore, a schoolhouse, a dressmaker's and

millinery shop, and an antique display place. It also was vacant for many years. It now is a restaurant.

The Knaggs House, standing at Detroit Ave. and River Rd., was built at about the time the Wolcott House was constructed. The house was built by Whittemore Knaggs, son of George Knaggs, Sr., who came to the area in 1760. Whittemore was in turn an Indian agent, interpreter for Washington, a spy for Wayne, and later a prominent resident of Detroit. He took part in the preparation of many treaties in his time. In 1813 he moved to Maumee and was captured by the Indians, but released at the close of the war.

The original foundations of the residence were of black walnut logs. The beautiful blue marble fireplace was bought in France. Like many historical places, it has a special tradition. The tradition of the Knaggs house is that some French noblemen stopped there while on their search for the Lost Dauphin, who was supposed to be living with the Indians. The house originally was across the River Rd. near the Miami Children's Home. It was moved in 1915, remodeled and now is a rest home.

The First Presbyterian Church in Maumee was built at the corner of Gibbs St. and East Broadway, on an old cemetery site, in 1837. The church was organized in January, 1820, and at first was a mission attached to the River Raisin, Mich., church. Among its pastors

was Joseph Badger, who was chaplain with General Harrison's army during the War of 1812.

At Conant St. and East Broadway in Maumee is Union School. The central wing was built in 1870. In 1884 the Rummsel Dynamite Works blew up, and the school's walls were cracked. The stay-rods used to repair them can still be seen. The first Union school was located in the lowlands near the river and among its first teachers was Dr. Horatio Conant for whom Conant St. is named. The first chartered high school in Ohio was started in Maumee in 1843.

The Dix House, 422 West Broadway, Maumee, is one of the oldest and most unusual in the valley. It was built by William Dix in 1840. Mr. Dix was a plantation owner in Natchez, Miss., but decided Ohio had a bigger future and he moved, with several servants, to Maumee. The Dix house shows the Natchez influence in its lacy ironwork on the porch and windows. All the brick and nails in the house were hand-made. The ironwork was wrought with a forge set up in the yard. Black walnut and pine used in the house came from timber on the property. Descendants of Mr. Dix, who was in the flour mill business, occupied the house until 1947.

Taverns today are not what they were in the early 1830s or 1840s. Take the old Spafford's Exchange, for example. This building is at 140 West Front Street,

Perrysburg. It now is a shingled apartment house. When it was constructed in 1822-23, it was colonial in style, with a two-story front portico, and was one of the most important taverns between Buffalo and St. Louis. There used to be a bell hanging in the tavern yard. The Indians loved to ring it. Finally they stole it, and a posse set out after it. The bell was discovered tied to a pony. It now reposes in the American Legion Building in Perrysburg.

If you drive on East River Rd. from Perrysburg to Grand Rapids you will pass Pioneer Inn, about two miles downstream from Grand Rapids. Originally this inn, built a century ago, was located at the end of the bridge in Grand Rapids. It was a popular stop-over for canal travelers. It is made of hard timbers, mortised and pegged. In 1932, Dr. C. S. Ordway moved it to its present site and remodeled it for a home.

The lower Maumee River Valley also has a ghost town—Providence. Providence, one of the oldest towns in the valley, lay at Wolf Rapids, between U.S. Rt. 24 and the river, just beyond the Grand Rapids bridge. Here was Chief Tontaganie's village. Among the first Frenchmen who came to the area was Peter Manor, a trader. Mr. Manor was so well thought of by the Ottawas that they adopted him, and when they were compelled to leave the valley they ceded him the large tract of land containing their village site.

Mr. Manor laid out the village of Providence in 1835, and built the large brick home which stands on the river bank. The building of the Wabash & Erie Canal made Providence a boom town. To furnish water for the canal, the Providence dam was built. Hotels, stores, homes sprang up almost overnight. The future of Providence looked bright.

Then came two disasters—cholera in 1846 and fire in 1854. But an even greater blow was the passing of the canal. When the canal ceased to be an important means of transportation, Providence began fading out of the picture quickly. The buildings have all been torn down except for the Manor home and the little brick St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The church faces what once was the main street of Providence. The property was sold to Elias Overly, who plowed across streets and lots. Today Providence is listed as farm land on the tax duplicate.

No history of the lower Maumee Valley would be complete without reference to the Miami & Erie and Wabash & Erie canal system, which linked Cincinnati, Dayton and Fort Wayne, Ind., with Toledo in the 1840s.

Before the Civil War the railroad began superseding the canal as a principal means of transportation, and in subsequent years the canals began disappearing from the scene. Anthony Wayne Trail and U.S. 24 from Maumee to Waterville were once canal routes.



All evidence of this old transportation system might have disappeared but for historical societies. In Side-Cut Park, just upstream from Maumee, is one of the six locks that lifted boats from river to canal level. The huge gray stone blocks were quarried at Marblehead. Once a brickyard, flour mill and paper mill were located where picnickers now enjoy themselves.

### *How a Young Officer and 'Old Betsy' Held Key Fort in War of 1812*

The names of Oliver Hazard Perry and Andrew Jackson come most often to mind when listing the heroes of the War of 1812.

But in Fremont, they add another name—that of George Croghan.

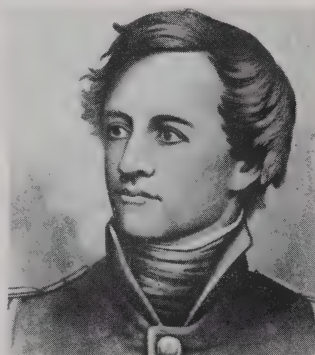
And well they can, too, because but for this 21-year-old major of the 17th U.S. Infantry, Ohio today might be a part of Canada, or at least subject to the British crown. But for the fighting qualities of this youthful hero, too, first discovered during the siege of Fort Meigs on the Maumee River, there might not be any city of Fremont.

In the years following the Revolution, the British clung desperately to their hold on what was known as

the Northwest Territory, including what is now Ohio. Twice, allied with the Indians, they had badly defeated American armies sent to dislodge them.

Even Gen. Anthony Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers did not clear out the British. The British hold was weakened, but not broken, and they immediately took steps by military installations to strengthen their position.

Major Croghan commanded an important battery during the defense of Fort Meigs. When the second siege was lifted, Gen. William H. Harrison, commanding officer, sent him and 159 men to Fort Stephenson, a small



*Maj. George Croghan*

fortification on the bank of the Sandusky River, where the city of Fremont now stands. At the same time, the British and Indians, numbering about 5,000, also set out for Fort Stephenson, intending to destroy

it, and thus break General Harrison's line of communication with Fort Seneca.

Fearing just such a move, and realizing Major Croghan's little force could not cope with an army of the size of the British-Indian army, General Harrison sent an order to Major Croghan, instructing him to set fire to the fort, abandon it and rejoin General Harrison. But when the order was received Major Croghan knew it would be highly dangerous to carry out—the Indians had arrived in force. So, he sent General Harrison a message, informing him that he intended to hold "this place, and by Heaven we can." Angered, General Harrison relieved Major Croghan of his command, but later when the young officer explained his reasons, General Harrison returned him to the Fort Stephenson command.

The main force of the British and Indians arrived before Fort Stephenson on July 31, 1813, and opened fire. The fort's defenders replied with its only cannon, affectionately called "Old Betsy." The British demanded Major Croghan surrender. His reply was a classic:

"The garrison will defend the fort to the last extremity; no force, no matter how large, can induce us to surrender. We will maintain Fort Stephenson, or be buried in the ruins."

Expecting an attack from the 500 British and 800 Indians would come from the northwest, Major Croghan secretly moved "Old Betsy" to an embrasure

made in the blockhouse and masked it. When the enemy attacked, Old Betsy raked them with slugs and grape. Carnage followed. The assault failed and the attackers



*Old Betsy, Pride of Fremont*

withdrew. The siege continued all night and the next day.

Major Croghan was able to dispatch a runner to General Harrison, who immediately sent help, but be-

fore the reinforcements arrived, the enemy had fled.

And about the man he once had displaced for disobeying his orders, General Harrison wrote in his official report:

"It will not be among the least of General Proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth, who has just passed his 21st year. He is, however, a hero worthy of his gallant uncle, General George Rogers Clarke." The rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel was conferred upon the young hero.

Major Croghan's military career continued in the Mexican War, and he finally died of cholera in New Orleans, Jan. 8, 1849. His body, later discovered in a grave near Louisville, Ky., where he once lived, was brought to Fremont in 1906 and is buried on the site of the old fort.

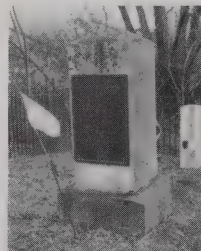
"Old Betsy" was sent to the Pittsburgh government arsenal when Fort Stephenson was dismantled. In 1851 Mayor Brice J. Bartlett of Fremont decided the cannon should be returned to the site of Fort Stephenson as a relic. By mistake it was sent to Sandusky, where it was buried. One night, it was secretly dug up and taken to Fremont. There is a granite monument in Library Park on Croghan St. now, marking the site of Fort Stephenson. Nearby is the grave of Major Croghan and who do you think stands guard over his faithful friend?" "Old Betsy."

## *Peaceful Marblehead Peninsula Once Scene of Bloody Struggle*

Each year thousands of persons visit the Peninsula—that part of Ottawa County that divides Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay—and admire its beautiful and peaceful setting.

It is safe to say that probably no one in 10,000 ever gave thought to the fact this area once was not so peaceful—in fact it has had a bloody history, especially early in the 19th Century.

This tongue of land was the first short portage for those traveling from Detroit to the Ohio River via the Sandusky and Scioto Rivers for many, many years. So important was it that the French built a fort on the south shore.



*Battle Marker*

After the Revolutionary War, the land comprising the Peninsula became a part of the Fire Lands, awarded to residents of Connecticut whose property had been burned by the British. As soon as the awards were made, in 1809 New Englanders began arriving, and settled on the Peninsula.

The Peninsula then was a true frontier. There were no schools or churches, mills—there was not even a law enforcement officer. Everything was peaceful—the hunting and fishing were good—and war seemed something that was just a nightmare.

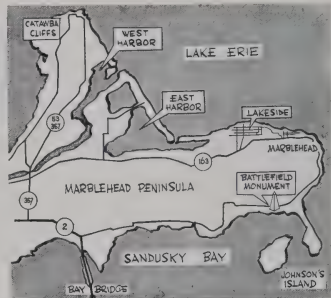
Then the War of 1812 broke out. There came a rude awakening—a runner arrived telling them that the American Army led by General Hull had surrendered to the British at Detroit without firing a shot.

The Peninsula settlers expected an immediate attack. Lookouts were placed on the big rocks lining the south shore of Lake Erie and along Sandusky Bay. There was one scare when several specks were seen approaching on Lake Erie. But to the settlers' relief, they were found to be General Hull's men, who had been put on parole.

The Indians became a greater nuisance, and finally, fearful of attack, the settlers carried to Sandusky everything they could and burned the rest. Shortly afterwards, Capt. Joshua Cotton arrived with a volunteer company of soldiers. He had orders to go to Two Harbors (East and West Harbors) and see about some wheat, corn and other supplies stored there. He left behind a guard over the boats in which his men had crossed Sandusky Bay.

Captain Cotton's men were ambushed by the Indians as they were returning to their boats. Hearing the fir-

ing, the boat guards became panicky, and instead of going to the aid of their comrades, they fled to Sandusky. Captain Cotton's men took refuge in an old log house, and held off the Indians all night. The boat guards meantime crossed Sandusky Bay and reported the plight of their comrades. Immediately a small volunteer army was raised. These volunteers crossed the bay at night and hid in the high grass along the shore.



When dawn broke, they hurried toward the besieged log house. They met no resistance—the Indians had fled. Inside the rescuers found 37 weary and hungry men. They had been without food for three days. In the skirmish, Valentine Ramsdell, Daniel Mingus, Alexander Mason and M. Simons had been killed, and three others wounded. The dead were buried on the spot. One of the besieged was a 17-year-old youth, Joshua R. Giddings. In 1862 he erected a monument on the site of the old log house.



Peace eventually settled over the Peninsula. The Indians departed. The forest was felled, the ground was tilled, and the fruit trees, now so important to the life of the community there, were planted.

So the next time you drive around "the Horn," as the Peninsula is called, you may see the monument erected by Mr. Giddings. It is beside the road not far from the famous lighthouse.

### *The Terrible Ordeal of Colonel Crawford*

In the year 1782, within the confines of the Sandusky River valley, there occurred a horrible tragedy—marked today by four monuments and two oil paintings.

At the edge of the village of Crawford, seven miles northwest of Upper Sandusky, there is a new monument, placed there in 1954. It is a half mile from another, weather-beaten monument, erected in 1877. The older marker stands alone, almost forlorn, atop a little knoll on the east bank of the Big Tymochtee Creek. It bears the legend: "In memory of Col. Crawford who was burned by the Indians in this valley."

Another marker is in Crawford County on the north side of the main highway between Galion and Bucyrus. It bears the legend: "Battle Ground of the Olentangy." It marks the spot where Colonel Crawford was captured

by the Indians. The fourth monument, marking the site of "Battle Island," is 3½ miles northeast of Upper Sandusky. It marks where Colonel Crawford met the British and Indians, commanded by Capt. William Caldwell and assisted by the renegades Simon Girty and Alex McKee.

The officer referred to was Col. William Crawford, a veteran of Braddock's campaign, and a former officer in the American army during the Revolution.

Colonel Crawford was distressed at the punishment being meted out to settlers in northern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and western Virginia by the Indians and British. He had petitioned Congress for help and even had led several bands of settlers against the Indians, who were anxious to keep control of the "water route" between Detroit and the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Upper Sandusky was the rallying point for the Indians and it was here that the British paid off the redskins. General Crawford felt the settlement should be



*Crawford Shaft*

wiped out. He finally agreed to lead an expedition against the Sandusky Valley Indians. The little volunteer army of 480 men rendezvoused at Mingo Bottoms on the Ohio River and started across Ohio. Indian runners, spotting the group, spread the alarm.

On June 2, the Sandusky River was reached and on June 4, Colonel Crawford's men reached Upper Sandusky's Old Town to find it deserted. A large body of Indians was discovered by the mounted scouts making for a large grove. They were dislodged and Crawford's men took over the grove themselves.

Sheltered by the high grass, the Indians and British repeatedly attacked and five Americans were killed. This skirmish has been called the "Battle Island" conflict. When Colonel Crawford learned that the enemy had brought up artillery, he decided to retreat under cover of darkness. The Indians and British opened up a heavy sniping attack on the little column.

Some of Crawford's men broke off from the main body in small groups, but most of them were shot, scalped or captured. Finally on the afternoon of June 6, Colonel Crawford decided to make a stand on the banks of the Olentangy River, five miles east of Bucyrus. Here was fought the "Battle of Olentangy."

Worried because he could not find his son, John, or his son-in-law, Colonel Crawford, together with Dr. John Knight, the expedition's surgeon, and two others started

out east in search of them. They were captured. Colonel Crawford offered Girty \$1,000 to save his life. Girty told the Indian chiefs Captain Pipe and Wingund,



*Death of Colonel Crawford*

who, incensed, decided to torture to death the captured officer.

On June 11, at the Delaware Indian village on the Tymochtee Creek, the Indians, having tomahawked some

of the prisoners, stripped Colonel Crawford of his uniform and began beating him and Dr. Knight with sticks and fists. A 15-foot pole was set up and a fire was started nearby. Colonel Crawford's hands were bound behind his back, and a rope fastened to ligatures between the wrists and pole, permitting him to walk twice around the pole and return.

Guns were shot into the prisoner's body causing it to turn black. His ears were cut off; burning poles applied to his body. Live coals were dumped on him. Colonel Crawford begged Girty to shoot him, but the renegade merely laughed. The horrible torture continued until he died. Dr. Knight was dragged away before the end came, and two days later he escaped.

Colonel Crawford's bones and his broken sword were found later at the torture scene. The Indians rejoiced at the officer's death; the settlers were grieved. Ultimately the harassed army reached Mingo Bottoms and was discharged. A 20-day campaign had ended in disaster.

### *Commodore Perry's Famous Victory Over the British Fleet At Put-In-Bay*

The situation was very black for the youthful United States early in 1813.

The American armies had met repeated defeat on the battlefield; nor was the naval situation very satisfactory, especially in the Great Lakes. The British completely dominated the lakes. Not only did it have a fleet sailing these waters, but the Americans did not possess a single ship.

To remedy that situation, it was decided to build an American fleet, and soon workmen laid the keels of two brigs and several schooners in the harbor of Erie,

Pa. To supervise the work, the government sent a young commodore, Oliver Hazard Perry. There was plenty of timber available, but it was necessary to ship the iron work, and cannonballs from as far distant places as Steubenville.

The British fleet was based at Malden, Ont., near the mouth of the Detroit River. Made aware of what was going on in Erie, on July 20, 1813, it made a dem-



onstration outside the harbor but did not attempt to enter.

By Aug. 2, the American fleet was completed and had passed over the harbor bar into Lake Erie: Immediately it sailed along the Canadian shore, itching for a fight, but the British refused to leave Malden, and the Americans returned to Erie. On Aug. 8, the fleet appeared off Sandusky Bay. There it took aboard some Kentucky riflemen; then proceeded to Put-in-Bay.

Great plans were being made then for an invasion of Canada by forces commanded by Gen. William H. Harrison, but first the British fleet must be eliminated. Commodore Perry's fleet of 3 brigs, 5 schooners and a sloop, bearing in all 54 guns, would have the task of defeating a British fleet bearing 63 guns and 2 howitzers.

Not only were the Americans outgunned but they were commanded by a young man who never had heard a ship's guns fire in combat, whereas the British were commanded by Commodore Robert H. Barclay, a veteran of the Battle of Trafalgar.

On Sept. 10 the British sailed forth from Malden. Commodore Barclay wanted to engage the Americans before they could clear the islands of which Put-in-Bay is a part. But by 10 a.m., the Americans had gained open water and the two fleets began converging on each other. The Americans were led by the flagship *Lawrence*,

with Commodore Perry aboard.

At 11:45 a.m., the enemy opened fire, but the *Lawrence* did not reply for 10 minutes. The British fire was directed on the flagship, which was far in ad-



*Commodore Perry's Naval Victory*

vance of the other American ships, which had lagged in going into battle. Soon the *Lawrence* was a shambles and unmanageable. Sizing up the situation, Com-



modore Perry seized his flag which carried the famous slogan "Don't Give Up the Ship" and proceeded in open boat to the Niagara, next ship in line.

The commander of the Niagara, Capt. Jesse Elliott, at that moment offered to bring up the other ships. This strange remark was responsible, incidentally, for a postwar investigation as to whether cowardice or treachery were responsible for the Niagara not going to the support of the Lawrence earlier. Some thought the commander deliberately held back hoping Perry would be killed.

Perry led the Niagara and other American ships into the British line. With every gun firing canister and grape at half-pistol distance, the Americans raked the British ships from stern to bow. So great was the devastation they wrought that the British soon struck their colors. Then was sent one of the most dramatic and thrilling messages ever sent by an American commander. Addressed to General Harrison, it said:

*"We have met the enemy and they are ours  
—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and a  
sloop."*

The bodies of the British and American seamen who died in battle were consigned to the waters of Lake Erie. The officers were buried beneath a tree in Put-in-Bay, in the presence of the survivors of both fleets. Altogether 27 Americans were killed and 96 injured.

Commodore Perry, the first man in history to receive the surrender of a British fleet, later joined Decatur's squadron in the Mediterranean, and finally was given a command in the West Indies. He died of yellow fever at Port Spain, Trinidad, on Aug. 23, 1819, and was buried there. In 1826 his body was taken to Newport, R. I. A 352-foot granite shaft at Put-in-Bay today commemorates the most famous battle fought on the Great Lakes.

### *Ignoble Incident in War of 1812*

Passage of the years, coupled with more objective appraisal of his troubles, has caused historians generally to take a different attitude about Gen. William J. Hull, who, in the War of 1812, surrendered an American army to the British at Detroit without firing a shot.

Yet, but for his age and Revolutionary War services, he probably would have been shot as a traitor to his country.

Settlers of the infant state of Ohio and of Michigan Territory were aware early in 1812 of a possible war between the United States and Great Britain. General Hull, then governor of Michigan Territory, had urged the military forces of the Northwest be strengthened. He also stressed the necessity of commanding Lake Erie

—there was not an American ship on the Great Lakes whereas the British had a fleet.

President Madison called on Ohio for 1,200 militia, with Dayton being selected as the rendezvous on April 29, 1812. Against his wishes, Governor Hull, who had been a brigadier general in the Revolutionary War and had won honors at Stony Point, Princeton and Trenton, was chosen to command the army. The force's destination—Detroit.

General Hull made a speech to his men.

"In marching through a wilderness tomorrow memorable for savage barbarity, you will remember the causes by which that barbarity has been hertofore excited. In viewing the ground stained by the blood of your fellow citizens, it will be impossible to suppress the feelings of indignation. Passing by the ruins of a fortress, erected in our territory by a foreign nation in times of peace, and for the express purposes of exciting the savages to hostility, and supplying them with the means of conducting a barbarous war, must remind you of that system of oppression and injustice which that nation has continually practiced, and which the spirit of an indignant people can no longer endure." Nor did he doubt war would follow.

General Hull's force proceeded to Urbana, where his army was reinforced on June 10. The next day one of the regiments was detached to build a road to the

Scioto River. Near the present site of Kenton, two blockhouses connected with palisades were built and called Fort McArthur. Continuing 16 miles north, General Hull's army built another blockhouse which was called Fort Necessity. There, disturbing word was re-



*Sketch of Fort Findlay*

ceived the British were collecting a large body of Indians at Malden and supplying them with ammunition; also that Detroit was in a sad state of defense.

Proceeding north to the Blanchard River, General

Hull built Fort Findlay on the south bank of the river where Main St. now crosses it in the present city of Findlay. Then, leaving heavy equipment behind, the army continued northward, crossed the Portage River a short distance west of the present village of Portage, and arrived on June 30 on the Maumee River, opposite the site of the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The army crossed over and camped just below the ruins of old Fort Miami.

Then occurred the great mistake of the campaign. General Hull loaded all his remaining baggage, including a trunk containing the complete muster rolls of his army, aboard the schooner *Cuyahoga*, which set out for Detroit. Whether he knew the War of 1812 had started is not known—some believe he did and ignored the danger of his move. But the British did, and furthermore, they captured the *Cuyahoga*. The muster rolls told them the exact size of the American army, and they prepared accordingly.

General Hull's army set out for Detroit. It crossed over the River Raisin and finally reached Springwells, about two miles south of Detroit. There General Hull informed his army war had been declared.

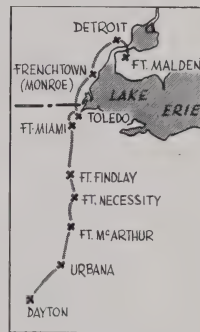
General Hull's army set out across the Detroit River on July 12 with a view of attacking Malden. But he was faced with terrific obstacles. The ground was so swampy

he could not move his artillery. The people of Canada ignored his plea to throw off the British yoke. A British war vessel, the *Queen Charlotte*, kept under fire the only road to the British fort at Malden. The enemy crossed the river between Detroit and the River Raisin and cut his communications to Ohio.

Every hour more Indians arrived to reinforce the British.

So General Hull, faced with these unsurmountable obstacles, ordered his troops back across the Detroit River. Col. Henry Proctor, seeing his difficulties, invited a surrender. Fearful of Indian vengeance if he did not, General Hull acquiesced and on Aug. 15 an American army of 2,500 men surrendered to an English force of 800 British soldiers and 600 Indians. The act threw the entire Northwest open to attack by the enemy.

General Hull was court-martialed two years later. He was charged with treachery and cowardice and convicted of the last charge. He was ordered shot but President Madison remitted the sentence.



### *The Terrible 1813 Massacre At Frenchtown*

Practically every adult in the Toledo area knows about the "Custer Massacre," when 276 soldiers commanded by Gen. George Custer were wiped out in the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876.

But not nearly so many are aware that on the banks of the River Raisin, where the City of Monroe, Mich., now stands, there occurred another and even greater massacre. This tragedy occurred on Jan. 22 and 23, 1813, and a total of 290 American soldiers were killed.

Historically minded Monroe citizens by numerous markers throughout the city are pointing out the important events that occurred that January. And, if you drive into Monroe via the Dixie Highway, you will pass a monument in a park that tells you that there are buried the bones of the many Kentuckians who were shot or tomahawked in the battle.

It was in December, 1812, that Gen. James Winchester was ordered to the Maumee River rapids to prepare for an invasion of Canada, to be opened with an attack on Malden, Ont. To conceal the plan, General Winchester indicated that the huts the soldiers were ordered to build at the rapids were for a winter encampment, and that the sleds they were building were to be used in bringing supplies from the interior.

On Jan. 13, 1813, two Frenchmen arrived from

Frenchtown (now known as Monroe) and warned that the Indians appeared to be concentrating at Malden. They said the inhabitants of Frenchtown were frightened because the Indians were uttering threats against their lives. It was decided to send troops to the village.

On Jan. 17, two bands of soldiers, numbering 670 in all, met at Presque Isle, then marched across the ice of Maumee Bay and along the western border of Lake Erie, to a point six miles south of Frenchtown. They were discovered by the Indians, who gave the alarm. The troops, now on dry land, formed in three lines and proceeded across the open plain toward the village. When about a quarter of a mile from Frenchtown, Colonel Lewis noticed that the enemy did not intend to fight in the open. Instead they posted themselves among the houses and behind the picket fences.

The enemy was attacked and driven about two miles by the Americans, who then returned to Frenchtown and encamped. Already 12 Americans had been killed. A message was sent to General Winchester telling about the skirmish and another to Gen. William H. Harrison by way of Lower Sandusky. Colonel Lewis decided to hold Frenchtown.

The news of the battle created a furor in General Winchester's camp and immediately reinforcements were ordered to Frenchtown. The reinforcements, led by General Winchester and numbering 250 men, reached

Frenchtown on the 20th. General Winchester ordered a breastwork thrown up to protect the camp on the north side of the river, but he, himself, repaired to the home



*Frenchtown in 1813*

of Col. Francis Navarre, on the south side of the river and nearly 300 yards from the main body.

Peter Navarre, a famous scout, arrived in Frenchtown the night of Jan. 21 with the warning that 3,000

British and Indians were coming from Malden to attack the village. For some reason, this information was not acted upon. In fact, many of the soldiers wandered about town until late at night. It was very cold that night, and while the usual guards were on duty, no patrol was sent out to scout for the enemy's presence.

Early on the morning of the 22nd, the British and Indians arrived. They hid in a ravine north of the village and were undetected. Reveille hardly had sounded in the American camp when the attack began.

The British opened heavy fire with several cannon, followed by a charge by the regulars. The Indians added to the din with their yells. The Americans repulsed them on the left and center, but the right, where the newly arrived reinforcements were unprotected by any fencing or breastwork, gave way and was overrun. General Winchester, hurrying forward, ordered his men to rally behind the fence and on the river bank. But they did not hear or they misunderstood his orders.

The British and Indians pressed their attack. The Americans fled across the River Raisin in disorder. Attempts by officers to rally them behind the garden pickets on the south side were in vain. Panic had set in. Southward they fled.

Some Americans tried to pass down a narrow lane, only to be ruthlessly shot down. Nearly 100 were tomahawked within a distance of 100 yards. Some of Gen-



eral Winchester's men fled in small groups, only to be overtaken and massacred. One force of 40 got three miles from the river before they were overtaken and surrendered. They were immediately shot down and tomahawked. General Winchester, Colonel Lewis and a few others were captured about where Plum Creek crosses the Dixie Highway.

Colonel Proctor, British commander, decided to take advantage of the general's capture. He said nothing but a surrender of the remaining Americans would save them from death at the hands of the Indians. Furthermore, he threatened to burn Frenchtown if his wishes were not complied with. Word was sent to the American lines that General Winchester wanted his men to surrender as prisoners of war.

Outnumbered, with no chance of any reinforcements arriving and with their ammunition nearly exhausted, the Americans finally agreed to surrender, provided private property would be respected, the wounded would be cared for, and officers would receive back their side-arms.

The British forces then withdrew. Many Indians accompanied them to Stony Creek. But a large body of Indians returned to Frenchtown and began plundering the deserted houses. The wounded were stripped of their clothing and bedding and tomahawked. Some houses were set afire and more wounded died in the

flames. Only 33 Americans escaped and returned to the Maumee rapids.

Thereafter the battle cry of the American soldier became: "Remember the River Raisin." General Winchester and Colonel Lewis were sent to Montreal, Quebec and Beaufort. They were confined until 1814 when a general exchange of prisoners took place and they returned home. General Winchester died in Gallatin, Tenn., on July 26, 1826.

### *Victory and Defeat At Fort Recovery*

There is an imposing shaft in the village of Fort Recovery, located on the banks of the Wabash River within a stone's throw of the Ohio-Indiana line.

In the base of the monument is a crypt which contains the bones of American soldiers killed in the two battles that took place on the village site—the defeat of Gen. Arthur St. Clair in 1791, and the victory of Gen. Anthony Wayne in 1794.

Trying to subdue the Indians in the Northwest Territory immediately after the Revolutionary War proved a difficult and costly task for the infant United States. Twice American armies had set out with high hopes of accomplishing that mission; twice they crept back to

safety, leaving dead and wounded on blood-drenched battlefields.

One attempt, in 1790, by the expedition led by Gen.



*Fort Recovery Rebuilt*

Josiah Harmar, ended in disastrous defeat at the junction of the St. Mary and St. Joseph Rivers, where the city of Fort Wayne, Ind., now stands. The second Amer-

ican army to taste defeat was led in 1791 by General St. Clair, veteran of the battles of Louisburg, Quebec, Trenton and Princeton.

With General Harmar's defeat, the Indians became increasingly bold. The Big Bottom massacre on the Muskingum River on Jan. 2, 1791, was the final blow. It was obvious that not only must the Indians be subdued, but Harmar's defeat showed it would take a large expedition to do the trick. General St. Clair was assigned to the job.

On Sept. 17, 1791, General St. Clair started across southern Ohio with an army of 2,300 men. He built Fort Hamilton where Hamilton, O., now stands; and Fort Jefferson, six miles south of Greene Ville. On Nov. 3, his army, by that time shrunken by desertions to 1,400 privates and 86 officers, encamped on the Wabash River where the village of Fort Recovery now stands. The men were tired, so it was decided not to build a defense work until the next day.

But the Indians upset that plan with a vengeance. Led by Chiefs Little Turtle, Blue Jacket and others, they attacked just after the troops had been paraded and dismissed the morning of Nov. 4. The untrained militia panicked, and fled into the main camp 300 yards away. The left flank of the army gave way. General St. Clair, ill from the gout, fought nobly trying to rally his men. Four horses were shot from under him. The troops

tried to drive back the Indians with bayonets but the redskins returned to the attack. Finally the remainder of the army crowded around the center. Many officers were killed and wounded as the Indians picked them off. Finally the artillery, which was of little use in the wooded area, was spiked and St. Clair's men began retreating. As they fled to Fort Jefferson, 29 miles away, they littered the road with firelocks, cartridge boxes and other equipment. Upon reaching Fort Jefferson they joined the First Regiment and then continued on to Fort Hamilton.

General St. Clair attributed his defeat to the lack of discipline in the militia. He also found his equipment faulty. Boxes supposed to contain flints, had gunlocks. The wrong powder was issued. General Harmar had predicted the defeat because General St. Clair's men were green and unprepared for such a campaign. Altogether General St. Clair lost approximately 900 privates and officers killed and wounded. He resigned his army post in 1802, and was relieved as governor of the territory the same year. He died in Greensburg, Pa., Aug. 31, 1818.

In January, 1792, General Wilkinson visited the battlefield, buried the dead, and built a stockade which he called Fort Recovery. Two years later, on June 30, the fort, occupied by part of General Wayne's army, was attacked by the Indians. The redskins first attached a

detachment of 90 riflemen and 50 dragoons outside the fort, then launched a general assault upon the garrison of 200 men. They were repulsed with great slaughter, thus avenging St. Clair's defeat.

The stockade finally rotted away but was restored some years ago. The blockhouses inside are built on a one-third scale, but now a new blockhouse of the same size as the original ones now is being constructed. You still can see the well used by General Wayne's men, and part of the stockade's original flagpole is a valued relic in Fort Recovery today.

### *Canal Boats Once Key Means Of Passenger and Freight Trade*

Stroll along Ontario St., between Adams and Monroe Sts., and picture, if you can, a score of boats moored to docks along the thoroughfare.

Fantastic? Not at all, but you will have to recall that these were not lake steamers, but canal boats, and the time was in the 1840's, not the 20th Century.

In those days there was a canal, from what is now the North End, along the present Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to Cherry St., along the present Spielbusch Ave., slanting southward, crossing Jackson St. near

Michigan St., thence across Adams St., between Ontario and Michigan; Madison Ave., at Ontario St.; Jefferson Ave., a little nearer Ontario St. than Erie St.; Monroe St., nearer Erie St., Washington St. at Erie St., thence



*Along Wabash-Erie Canal*

westward across Lafayette St. at Ontario, turning southward and crossing Nebraska Ave. just west of Thirteenth St. and Swan Creek.

Even as late as 1930 there were persons who remem-

bered when this canal operated through the heart of Toledo; when Ontario St. docks were where the schooners loaded and unloaded their cargoes, especially where the old Toledo Public Library stood.

The canal business was so important in Toledo that at times as many as 50 to 60 boats would be tied up at the wharves at one time. Historians tell us that in 1847 a total of 417 canal boats were in commission, and that in 1848 the total of canal boat clearances was 3,753, carrying an aggregate cargo of 142,071,204 pounds. Tolls collected were \$117,220.25.

The Canal Age extended from 1815 to 1850 and was given an impetus by construction of the Erie Canal in New York. Immediately Ohioans agitated for a state canal system linking the Ohio River and Lake Erie.

There were some who wished the canal to be built from Painsville to Fairport, via the Grand and Mahoning Rivers. Others favored a route from Cleveland to the Ohio River by way of Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas and Muskingum Rivers. Still others wanted to build it from Sandusky Bay, via the Sandusky and Scioto Rivers. Finally there were those who agitated for a canal from the Maumee River to the Great Miami River.

The surveys disclosed an insufficient amount of water for the Painsville-Grand-Mahoning route, and the Sandusky-Scioto project. But work was begun on the Ohio

Canal (Cleveland-Muskingum) on July 4, 1825, and it was ready for business July 4, 1827.

The Ohio Legislature finally voted to build a canal to be called the Wabash-Erie from the mouth of the Maumee River to the Indiana line, and another one to link the Miami canal between Dayton and Cincinnati with an extension to the Maumee. The Wabash-Erie Canal was opened in 1843, and the Miami-Erie Canal in 1845.

There was quite a to-do as to where the northern terminus of the canal should be. Port Lawrence Vistula (Toledo) wanted it, so did Maumee and Perysburg and the paper towns of Miami City, Marengo, East Marengo and Lucas City. Toledo won out.

Digging the canal was a big project for its time. The drop could not be more than an inch a mile, so there would be no loose dirt, and the banks had to be firm.

The first boat on the canal arrived in Toledo June 27, 1845, and a gala occasion it was. Soon the canals were busy with regular freight boats and packets, which carried passengers.

Compared to present standards, the packets were pretty crude and unpleasant. They could travel but four miles an hour. Each packet could carry from 35 to 40 passengers. Boat captains chose their crew for their

fighting ability, for each canal town lock had its bully.

The boats were pulled by horses or mules who used a towpath paralleling the canal. Paddle wheels and propellers were taboo—they stirred up the water too much. All craft had to be low enough to pass under the bridges. But despite the hardships, the canals were a transportation improvement. It was smooth riding, at least.

Along the canal were built thriving communities such as Providence, Texas and Florida, to name just a few. Then came the railroad—the canals were disused and finally abandoned. The downtown canal had been abandoned in 1871. Some of the canal towns, such as Providence, disappeared from the map. Texas and Florida for decades lived in memories only, until U.S. 24 was built and they once more came to life. Only one house and a church remain of Providence, opposite Grand Rapids.

The canals, which had been privately operated for many years, in 1878 were returned to the state in deplorable condition. A few sections where there were no railroads were continued in use until near World War I. But other sections were abandoned. In December, 1922, the City of Toledo acquired that part between Swan Creek and Maumee, and began what ultimately became Anthony Wayne Trail.

The Miami-Erie Canal was fed by waters from three



reservoirs, Loramie in Shelby County, St. Marys in Mercer County and Lewistown, in Logan County. After the canals were abandoned, the lakes became popular recreation spots. A few minor parts of the canal and some of the locks still can be seen, but they have no value except as mementoes of an age that has passed.

### *Turncoat Simon Girty Helped Indians in Bloody Raids on Helpless Settlers*

While Benedict Arnold is considered America's worst traitor, surely Simon Girty does not rank far below him in the opinion of many writers.

A turncoat, sometimes referred to as the "Monster of the Maumee," a man who gloried in leading Indians on raids on helpless settlers, a man who could watch a white man being burned at the stake and not turn a hand to save him, Girty's name has gone down in history as one of this nation's top blackguards.

Simon Girty was born in 1741 near Harriesburg, Pa., and was one of four brothers—Thomas, Simon, James and George. When he was about 10 years old his father was slain by an Indian during a drunken debauch. The redskin, in turn, was killed by John Turner, who lived with the Girtys. Not long after this Turner married Girty's widow.

In August, 1756, a roving band of Indians captured the entire family. Turner was tortured to death in the presence of his wife and children. The boys were divided among the Indians—Simon went with the Senecas, James with the Shawnees, and George with the Delawares. Thomas escaped soon after his capture. After three years of living with the Indians, learning their language, getting invaluable training, the Girty boys joined their friends in Pittsburgh.

Simon finally became a guide and interpreter for Lord Dunmore in his 1774 campaign. Ultimately Girty's allegiance to the Americans began to waiver when he did not get the commission he thought due him, and finally on March 28, 1778, Girty, together with Alexander and Matthew Elliott and other Tory sympathizers, deserted. Girty circulated among the Indians,



*Simon Girty*

telling them the Americans had been beaten, that Gen. George Washington had been slain, and that the American armies (what was left of them, at least) were about to attack them.

Village after village Girty and his fellow renegades visited, always sowing dissent. Finally they reached Detroit where Simon Girty was employed as an Indian interpreter. James Girty, who had met them on the Muskingum, joined Simon. Pennsylvania proclaimed the Girtys, McKee and Elliott renegades.

Girty was sent back to join the Indians in their forays against the Americans. He participated in attacks at Ruddell's Station on the Licking River, and on Fort Laurens on the Tuscarawas River near the present town of Bolivar, O. The Girty brothers continued to stir up the Indians against the Americans. In 1779, Simon and George Girty, and a party of Shawnees, attacked an American party near the mouth of the Little Miami River and killed 40.

Simon Girty was so active with his Indian allies that when Col. William Crawford's little army was cut to pieces near Upper Sandusky, and the colonel was captured, many thought Girty was in command. It may have been Colonel Crawford's offer of \$1,000 to Girty to help him escape that caused Girty to inform the Indians and resulted in the officer being burned at the stake. During the torture, Colonel Crawford appealed

to Girty to shoot him, but the renegade merely laughed and turned away.

After the battle of Bryant's Station in Kentucky in 1782, George Girty went to live on Mad River in Logan County, while Simon went to Half-King's village about five miles from Upper Sandusky.

Girty went to Detroit where he became an interpreter. When the Indian war opened about 1790, he joined the Indians and was active in the defeat of the Harmar and St. Clair expeditions against the redskins.

McKee, in the meantime, had established a trading post at Maumee. Girty had attended an Indian council there as his representative. Girty's ties with the Indians were so strong that when the Indians held a grand council at Defiance, he was the only white man permitted to attend.

When Gen. Anthony Wayne's army arrived in the vicinity of the Maumee in 1794, Girty and an Indian companion fled to an island in the Maumee River, four miles above Napoleon. This bit of land today is known as Girty's Island. After the battle of Fallen Timbers, Girty and other renegades gave the Indians food. Wayne's men had destroyed the redskins' fields.

In 1784, Girty married Catherine Malotte (Mallott), at Amherstburg, Canada. The British had given him a farm for his services. But after the birth of their fourth child, Girty's wife left him. They later became recon-

ciled. However, when Gen. William Harrison and his American army invaded Canada during the War of 1812, Girty fled, leaving her behind. He was deadly afraid of capture. Girty returned to his home, where he died Feb. 18, 1818, of a fever and was buried there. The British soldiers fired a salute over his grave.

Girty was a many-sided man. He treated missionaries and Christian Indians with disdain. He refused to help save Crawford's life. He led raids on helpless settlers. Yet he saved the life of Simon Kenton, the scout, when the latter was about to be burned to the stake by the Indians. He spoke often of the wrongs he said he had received at the hands of his countrymen, and of his exultation of the revenge he took. He liked to boast of his personal prowess. He was a heavy drinker and a brawler. A deep cut on his forehead is said to have been inflicted by an Indian chief in a drunken brawl.

James Girty once had a trading post on what is known as Girty's Island, causing many to believe the place really was named after him instead of his brother. He died in 1817. Thomas died in 1820. The exact date of George Girty's death is not known.

### *Ohio-Michigan 'War' of 1835—A Comic Opera*

It is too bad that Gilbert and Sullivan did not know about the Ohio-Michigan "war" of 1835, because the drama, suspense and comedy that episode added to history would have been a perfect story line for one of their operettas.

The seed for the controversy was sown in 1755 when Dr. John Mitchell made a survey for the British Lords of Trade to locate the exact position of Michigan. Through ignorance of the geography of the area, he located the southern bend of Lake Michigan about 40 miles too far north of its true location. But, believing the survey accurate, his measurements were used to determine boundary questions after the Revolution, and when the Ordinance of 1787 creating the Northwest Territory was approved by Congress, it fixed the northern boundary of Ohio and the southern boundary of Michigan east from the southern tip of Lake Michigan to the western end of Lake Erie.

The Mitchell map was used in 1802 to define the state lines when Ohio was being readied for admission to the Union as a state. A convention met to adopt the Ohio Constitution. A hunter familiar with Ohio-Michigan territory attended a session out of curiosity. He was flabbergasted when he heard where the boundary

line was to be fixed. He told convention leaders that Dr. Mitchell was in error. This created a dilemma.

If the map was correct, the boundary was where they believed it to be. If the hunter was right, the boundary would cross the Maumee River far south of the original map and would meet Lake Erie 30 miles east of Maumee. So deciding Congress meant the line should pass north of Maumee Bay, as Dr. Mitchell had placed it, the convention asked for a new survey and new map.

Congress named William Harris to run the line and gave him a copy of the proposed Ohio Constitution for guidance. In order to comply with that document, Harris found he would have to bend the state line north-east so as to bring together the southern tip of Lake Michigan and the Maumee Bay.

This action caused a stir in Michigan, whose officials appealed to President James Monroe. He ordered another survey—this time by a William A. Fulton. Fulton ran his line due east from Lake Michigan and came out well south of Maumee Bay. The land between the Harris and Fulton lines comprised a quadrangle of about 400 square miles. If accepted finally, the City of Toledo and more than half of Lucas County would now be in Michigan. Both states promptly levied taxes on the area.

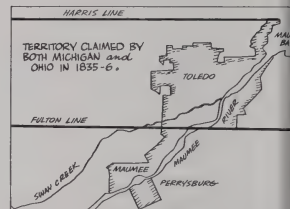
But no one took the matter seriously until 1825 when

the Miami and Erie Canal was planned. The builders wanted the terminus to be in the Maumee Bay area, preferably Swan Creek.

In 1835 the Ohio Legislature convened and Gov. Robert Lucas demanded support in his fight to get the questioned territory included within Ohio. He already had appealed to the Federal Government.

On February 23, 1835, the Legislature extended the state's jurisdiction to the Harris line by creating two townships and ordering an election the following April. It also ordered three commissioners to mark the Harris line.

Steve T. Mason, 24, was acting governor of Michigan. Upon learning Ohio's plans, he convened the Michigan Legislature, which passed a law prohibiting the organization of any foreign jurisdiction within the limits of the territory of Michigan. Since Michigan claimed the Fulton line to be the true boundary, this meant jurisdiction over the disputed area—notably Toledo. It prohibited any resident of the territory from accepting any public office other than in Michigan or the



United States, and provided a \$1,000 fine and 5-year imprisonment penalty for any violation.

Action was swift—Governor Lucas mobilized the Ohio militia. Governor Mason ordered Gen. Joseph W. Brown, commanding the Third Division of the Michigan militia to prepare for action. This was all very nice—on paper—the fly in the ointment being that General Brown had no troops. His was a paper organization. So he called for volunteers.

The little “armies” then began marching toward each other. Governor Lucas arrived at Perrysburg on March 31 with Gen. Joe Bell and 600 men. General Brown came down with 1,200 men, but stopped short of the Harris line. The two forces stayed 10 miles apart making a lot of threats but taking care not to get within shooting distance of each other.

Elections were held in the townships under Ohio law on April 6. Two days later, the Monroe County, Mich., sheriff, under orders of Governor Mason, arrested two Ohio men who had been active on election day. He then returned to the area with 200 men to make further arrests.

By this time the dispute had come to the attention of President Jackson, who sent “peace” commissioners to iron out the trouble. The commissioners made a peculiar recommendation to the President: That the people of the disputed territory should obey the laws of which-

ever state they favored. Knowing the majority favored being part of Ohio, Governor Lucas accepted the plan. Governor Mason rejected it.

The President asked for Justice Department ruling. Attorney General Benjamin F. Butler issued one in favor of Michigan, but added that Ohio’s decision to remark the Harris line violated no federal law.

On March 31, Governor Lucas, his staff and the boundary commissioners arrived at Perrysburg to remark the Harris line. Gen. John Bell arrived, too, to muster into service about 600 volunteers. The Ohio boundary commissioners and their military escort reached a farm owned by a man named Phillips, not far from Sylvania. A Michigan under-sheriff began arresting some of the group. While the commissioners fled, the rest of the party took refuge in a log cabin. As the under-sheriff approached, all but one of the men left the building, ranged themselves in a line, cocked their rifles, and ordered the officer to “stand off.” But as he continued forward, they began running. Several shots were fired. The Ohio group was arrested but released later on parole.

The angered Governor Lucas immediately demanded an “invasion” of Michigan but finally cooled off. The State Legislature, however, did appropriate \$300,000 as a “war fund,” and did even better—it carved



out a new county from the disputed territory and named it Lucas County.

Ohio called for volunteers. With a whoop and a holler, 12,361 signed up. But when told to prepare for a march only 100 showed up. Governor Mason also began mobilizing his forces. The situation now was getting out of hand.

On Sept. 6, three associate judges, a clergyman and the Ohio adjutant general reached Maumee, accompanied by Col. Mathias Van Fleet and 100 cavalrymen. The next night at 1 a.m. he and three judges mounted their horses at Fort Miami, and under escort of Colonel Van Fleet's 20 volunteers started for Toledo. They rode to a schoolhouse located at Washington, Monroe, Erie and Michigan Sts., arriving at 3 a.m. Each man in the escort carried a rifle and two pistols. The judges and other officials went inside to hold court. It lasted but 20 minutes, and the journal entry was signed by Judge J. H. Jerome.

Having beaten Michigan to the punch, the group went to a hotel at Elm and Summit Sts. to celebrate. In the middle of it, somebody entered and yelled "The Michiganders are coming." The group fled. The clerk, Dr. Horatio Conant, lost his tall hat in which he had placed the court papers. After they had gone some distance, they stopped to talk the situation over. The loss of the papers was discovered. Then, under guard, the

clerk and two others retraced their steps, and found them. The entire party then repaired to Maumee.

As soon as Governor Mason learned he had been outsmarted, he wanted to "wipe Toledo off the map." By noon, General Brown was in Toledo with 1,200 men from Michigan. For four days the Michigan boys camped on the plain near Toledo, not knowing the court had come and gone. Governor Mason and his militia were still in Toledo when a courier arrived with the notice that President Jackson had dismissed him from office. The troops were going through a dress parade when Mason called a halt and informed them he no longer was commander in chief. General Brown then disbanded the troops.

Not long afterward the Ohio troops advanced on the Michigan "magazine," which was an old barn. A volley was fired into the building. They then charged. When they burst into the barn they discovered the sole casualty—a horse. Otherwise the barn was empty. Later the owner put in a claim for \$50 for the horse "lost in the service of the state, in defending the supremacy of its laws."

Mason's removal really ended the "war." Congress resolved the quarrel; the Harris line was fixed as the boundary, but Michigan was given the northern peninsula, rich in minerals, and also admitted as a state.

June 25, 1836, was an eventful day as Toledo cele-

brated the end of the "war." Cannons were fired and bells rung. Banners waved from hotels and public buildings. Finally there was a grand display of "fire balls." These were balls of cotton wicking soaked in turpentine and ignited. One of them hit an Indian and set fire to his shirt. Small boys then began firing more "fire balls" and tossed them at more Indians, forcing them to flee from the city.

So in the end, the Indians lost again.

### *General Anthony Wayne and Fort Defiance*

The time—Aug. 17, 1794.

The place—the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers.

The occasion—the completion of an imposing fortification consisting of four blockhouses, a wall of earth eight feet thick, supported by a long wall, and a deep, wide ditch surrounding the entire work.

Glancing with satisfaction the defense his engineers had planned, Gen. Anthony Wayne spoke to his subordinates:

"I defy the English, the Indians, and all devils of hell to take it."

"Then why not call it Fort Defiance?" replied one

of Wayne's generals. So General Wayne sat down and penned the following letter to the Secretary of War:

"Sir, we have gained possession of the grand emporium of the hostile Indians of the West, without loss of blood. The very extensive highly cultivated fields and gardens show the work of many hands. The margin of those beautiful rivers—Maumee and Auglaize—appear like one continued village for a number of miles both above and below this place; nor have I ever before beheld such fields of corn in any part of America from Canada to Florida. We are now employed in completing a strong stockade fort, with four good blockhouses, by way of bastions, at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee, which I have called Defiance."

General Wayne's army had come into the Northwest Territory to break the hold of the Indians and British. Already two previous American army commanders—Josiah Harmar and Arthur St. Clair—had suffered devastating defeat.

But General Wayne was a different type of commander. As his army proceeded north cutting the Maumee tribes in half, he built forts to protect his line of communications. At the scene of St. Clair's defeat he constructed Fort Recovery, and now at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee, he picked out another site for another and even stronger fort. Fort Defiance was built to counter-balance Fort Miami, located at the head

of the Maumee River rapids. Because it was so near to the British and in country held by the enemy, General Wayne used more care than usual in seeing it as a formidable work.

At each angle of Fort Defiance there was a blockhouse. The one facing the Maumee had portholes on three sides. There was a line of pickets on each side of the fort connecting the blockhouses by their nearest angles. Outside there was a glacis, a wall of earth eight feet thick, sloping upwards and outwards from the feet of the pickets, supported by a long wall on the sides of the ditch and by fascines, a wall of fagots, on the side next to the Auglaize.

The ditch was 14 feet wide and 8 feet deep. It surrounded the entire work except on the side toward the Auglaize. Diagonal pickets, 11 feet long and a foot apart, were secured to the log wall and projected over the ditch. There was a 4-foot-wide bank of earth left for passage across a ditch. There also was a drawbridge and falling gate. So the defenders could get water safely, a ditch 3 feet deep was dug by which water could be procured from the river without exposing the carrier to the enemy.

It took eight days to build Fort Defiance and so strong was the work that it never was attacked. During the War of 1812 it was enlarged and further strengthened. Fort Winchester was built slightly south.

The site of Fort Defiance also was the scene of the largest Indian council ever held in America. In October, 1792, the chiefs of all the tribes of the Northwest Territory, representatives of the seven nations of Canada,



*Fort Defiance Today*

and 27 nations beyond Canada, 48 chiefs of the Six Nations, and three of the Gora Nations attended the council at the point where the Maumee and Auglaize

Rivers meet. The Shawnees favored war on the Americans; Red Jacket, a Seneca chief, spoke for peace. The Shawnees' viewpoint won.

Fort Defiance was abandoned when the War of 1812 ended and peace settled on the Maumee Valley.

### *Past Hides History of Fort Industry*

Fort Industry—what was it? Who built it? When? Historians have been divided for years trying to pin down the true history of the little fortification that once stood on a high bluff overlooking the confluence of Swan Creek and Monroe St.—more exactly, now the northeast corner of Summit and Monroe Streets.

Some historians say that Fort Industry was not a fort in the true meaning of the word—that it was merely a blockhouse. Some claim that Fort Industry was built by Gen. Anthony Wayne in 1794. Others agree that Wayne built the fort, but fix the date as 1795-96. On the other hand quite a few historians claim General Wayne did not build the fort at all—that Fort Industry was not constructed until 1800 or shortly thereafter.

The following legend was on a plaque on the Fort Industry Block:

"This building stands on the site of Fort Industry,

a stockade erected as a safeguard against the British who then held Fort Miami. It was garrisoned by a company of United States troops under command of Capt. J. Rhea who held it until after the evacuation of the British posts in the northwest in the year of 1796, an act which was brought about by the authorization of Jay's treaty with Great Britain. In July, 1805, a treaty was negotiated at Fort Industry on which was furnished the Indians title to the western part of the reserve known as Firelands, a tract of about 500,000 acres granted by the state of Connecticut to the sufferers by fire from the British troops in their incursions into that state during the war of the Revolution."

"Evidences of the fort were not entirely obliterated as late as the year of 1836. A bluff 20 feet high was leveled and the Fort Industry Block was erected in 1842 and 1843 by Richard Mott."

But there has been considerable doubt raised on the authenticity of some of these statements. They point out that the name Fort Industry does not appear anywhere in the official reports of Wayne's 1794 campaign against the Indians. Nor does he refer to any such fort in his diary. According to Walter J. Sherman, who made quite a study into the origin of Fort Industry, there is no mention of such fort in the report to Congress on military installations of 1796 by Timothy Pickney, acting secretary of war.

The confluence of Swan Creek and the Maumee River was a popular meeting place for Indians and French traders as far back as 1680. There have been found historical references of a rough blockhouse being built "for the Indians at Swan Creek in 1782. It is possible that Wayne intended building a fort at that place after the Battle of Fallen Timbers, but if he did, he never left any written record of it.

There is the possibility that some of the discrepancies are due to the fact that some persons would not consider a blockhouse a fort, and that Wayne well could have built a blockhouse but did not consider it important enough to mention. On the other hand, Wayne's men had won a victory but they scarcely would have taken time to build a blockhouse, much less a fort, so soon after the conflict. There are some historians who claim Wayne built "Fort Industry" in 1795, but can offer no proof from Wayne himself.

It is noticeable that no Fort Industry appears on early maps of the area. Some historians say that Fort Industry was built in 1820; others that it was in 1805. The trouble is that the early records of the War Department are incomplete. The Quaker Journal in 1804 mentions Fort Industry.

Two things are pretty certain: a Captain Grant in command of British naval operations on Lake Erie in 1782 built a blockhouse on the site. And Fort Industry

had no part to play in the War of 1812. Whether there was a group of blockhouses bound together with or surrounded by a stockade, the accustomed form of defense in those days, is not known.



*Sketch of Fort Industry*

It is known that there was a temporary outpost on the site in 1803 and 1805. It might be added that the site of Fort Industry was built on a bluff that rose 20 feet above the water at the junction of Swan Creek and



the Maumee. During the canal boat days, the bluff was cut down.

So thus we have the rather obscure beginning of Fort Industry. Evidence of some sort of fortification was to be found there as late as 1836, and the fact many bullets and garments with buttons were discovered by settlers indicated there must have been some sort of military operation there once—but when, or how, or between whom—you can guess just as well as the next chap.

### *Peter Manor Residence Only Home Remaining of Ghost Town*

No tall shaft commemorates Peter Manor, a French trader, who figured prominently in Maumee Valley affairs about the time of the War of 1812, but something else recalls him—his home. Manor, while a comparatively young man, was adopted by the Indian chief, Tontoganie, after which the town Tontogany was named. The Indians give him the name of Sawendebans or Yellow Hair.

The Manor residence stands near U.S. Rt. 24 just beyond Grand Rapids, O. It is best seen at the end of the cutoff where the highway dips toward the bridge

over the Maumee River, then back again. The stuccoed house has another distinction—it is the only residence remaining of the ghost town of Providence.

The first intimation that General Hall had surrendered his American army to the British at Detroit was the sudden appearance of British soldiers and Indians at the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The Indians stole everything they could get their hands on, then paddled to Detroit. A Delaware chief called Sac-a-manc remained behind, and Manor became friendly with him.

Thus he learned that the Indians were planning a big council at Fort Malden, Ont., and that an expedition would be dispatched to relieve Fort Wayne. The relieving army was expected at the Rapids in about two days. When it arrived in the Maumee Valley, the plan was to kill all Americans to be found, the chief said. Manor warned the American officers of what he had been told, but his warning was ignored.

Two days later, a party of Pottawatomies was seen en route to Malden. This, together with the news of the Detroit surrender, frightened the settlers, who fled. A few days later Sac-a-manc returned with the scalps of several white settlers. Then Col. Matthew Elliott, who had turned renegade and joined the British and Indians, arrived with a large force of Indians near the foot of the Rapids.

Manor's services as a guide to Ford Wayne were sought, but Manor, who wanted no part of the Indians' scheme, pleaded ignorance of the country. He offered to lead them to the head of the Rapids but no further. On Manor's return, about a mile below Maumee, he met a party of 40 Indians. He told them he was on a foraging expedition, and they let him go.

Colonel Elliott's soldiers turned back to Canada when they saw the formidable Fort Defiance, with an American flag flying overhead.

Manor visited the British fleet which was anchored off Swan Creek and told the officers in charge that he had been getting supplies for the British soldiers. He asked to be permitted to join his family. The British authorities were not impressed with Manor's story, and tossed him into the brig. Through friends, he was released two days later and permitted to join his family. When Manor returned to the Maumee area he found his crops destroyed, his store plundered and his horses stolen, but his family was unharmed.

Manor became a scout for the American Army during the War of 1812. For those services, he was given a grant of land opposite the present village of Grand Rapids.

When the Wabash and Erie Canal was built through the area, Manor laid out the village of Providence on the west side of the river and canal. While the canal

was in operation, Providence flourished, and hotels, warehouses, saloons, stores and mills were built. But when the canal fell into disuse, Providence came upon bad times. The cholera in 1846 and a fire in 1854 had



*Peter Manor Home Today*

given it two severe blows, from which it never recovered. A great share of the village was sold to Elias Overly, who plowed across the lots and streets.

Finally, only Manor's own home and St. Patrick's Church remained to remind the passerby of Providence. Manor was buried on the farm.

### *Peter Navarre, Early Settler of East Toledo, Carried Perry's Message*

One of the most prominent of the early settlers of the Maumee Valley was French-Canadian Peter Navarre. Said to be the son of a French army officer who visited the lower Maumee Valley in 1745, Peter Navarre was born in Detroit in 1785, one of six brothers. In 1807, with his brother, Robert, he built a cabin on the east side of the Maumee River near its mouth. This was his home until he died.

Peter Navarre became an expert woodsman and trapper and in his numerous contacts with the Pottawatomie Indians he soon learned to speak their language. He also became fairly proficient in the dialects of the other tribes in the area. For several years he was employed by a Detroit firm to buy furs from the Indians near Fort Wayne, Ind. While in this occupation he met Chief Little Turtle and became his friend.

When the War of 1812 started, Navarre, with three of his brothers, offered their services as scouts to Gen-

eral William Hull, who headed an American army en route to Detroit to drive out the British. But to Peter Navarre's disgust and bewilderment, General Hull did not follow the advice or utilize the information that he gave him, and wound up surrendering his army to the British.

Peter Navarre and his brothers were placed on parole, but the little group broke parole to become scouts for Gen. William H. Harrison. Peter Navarre soon became General Harrison's most trusted scout. He endured great hardships to thread his way through the heavy forests and swim swollen creeks and rivers to obtain information for the general.

General Harrison assigned him to Gen. James Winchester, who headed an army to move against the British and Indians. Winchester had sent forward a small army to Frenchtown (Monroe), Mich., while the remainder of his force remained at Fort Miami.

Through French settlers who were his friends, the scout learned the British and Indians were massing at Fort Malden, Ont., and preparing to attack the American force at Frenchtown. But his warning was ignored, with the result that the little army was destroyed. This engagement has been called the River Raisin massacre. Peter Navarre and his brothers escaped by jumping across ice floes in the river. They were able to make their way across the ice of western Lake Erie and Mau-

mee Bay to Presque Isle. There they obtained ponies and made their way to Fort Stephenson (Fremont).

Learning that General Harrison was at Fort Meigs, the Navarre brothers hurried through the forest to join him. General Harrison told Peter to go to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry at Put-in-Bay to inform him that Harrison intended invading Canada, but not until the British fleet in western Lake Erie was eliminated. He carried another message from General Harrison that the British then were preparing to leave their Canadian haven.

Commodore Perry was ready, and when the British sallied forth, he met them several miles northwest of Put-in-Bay and destroyed the enemy fleet. It was a proud moment for Peter Navarre when he carried to General Harrison Commodore Perry's famous message: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop."

Peter Navarre took part in the Battle of the Thames, then. He helped bury the Indian chief Tecumseh, killed in that engagement. With the war over, he returned to his home on the East Side of Toledo. Because his name was not on an enlistment roll, Navarre could not be paid for his services, but a special act of Congress took care of that.

Peter Navarre spent the rest of his life in East Toledo. He died March 20, 1874, at the age of 89. Peter

Navarre also is honored by giving his name to a street and to a school in Toledo.



*Peter Navarre Cabin*

## *Top Indian Chiefs Who Once Roamed in Toledo District*

Should you ever decide to name an All-American Indian Chiefs team, there are several who once roamed northwestern Ohio who should be included—Pontiac, Tecumseh and Little Turtle for example.

And for the second team, or even honorable mention, one could consider Blue Jacket, Cornstalk, Blackhoof, Ellskwatama, or The Prophet, as he was often called, and Tarte, the Crane. Captain Pipe and White Eyes figured less prominently. Of these, Pontiac, Tecumseh and Little Turtle easily are the best known to the white man, but the others cannot be brushed off as unimportant.

Pontiac was born in northwestern Ohio (exact place in dispute) in 1720. His father was an Ottawa; his mother belonged to the Ojibwa tribe. In early life he showed unusual ability and by 1775 had become an Ottawa chief and leader of a loose confederacy of Ottawa, Pottawatomis and Ojibwa tribes.

Pontiac led his Ottawas in the defeat of General Braddock, but five years later when Maj. Robert Rogers of the British army wanted to occupy Michilimackinac and other French forts, Pontiac gave him permission, provided he was treated with respect. When British

troops entered the Northwest Territory, however, Pontiac had a change of mind and considered this an invasion of his country. Angered, he planned a war of extermination—a plan now called the Pontiac conspiracy. The French urged him on.

In 1762, Pontiac obtained the pledge of allegiance from tribes south of Lake Superior and east of the Mississippi River. Each tribe was to strike the nearest British fort. Ironically Pontiac was the least successful—his attempt to capture Detroit by trickery failed, and then he was compelled to put Detroit to siege. Five months passed—Detroit still was able to get supplies and once its defenders even made a sally which failed. Finally, dissatisfied with the siege, the Indians began leaving Detroit. Pontiac ended the siege in the fall and retreated to the Maumee River.

Elsewhere the conspiracy was successful—eight of the British forts were overrun and the garrisons massacred. Several British expeditions were destroyed. On Aug. 17, 1765, peace was agreed to between Pontiac and the British, and a year later a peace treaty was signed.

Pontiac was murdered in 1769 by an Illinois Indian of Kaskaskia, Ill. In retaliation Pontiac's fellow tribesmen nearly exterminated the Illinois redskins. "Pontiac was one of the most remarkable men of the Indian race," one writer said. "He had commanding energy and force of mind, combined with subtlety and craft and



power of organization." He also was treacherous and cruel.

Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief, was born near Springfield, O., in 1768. He first came into prominence when, in 1805, he tried to unite the Indians against the Americans, claiming the treaties signed between them to be void. British agents fanned his hatred and finally Gen. William H. Harrison, in parley at Vincennes, Ind., warned him of impending trouble.

It is not believed Tecumseh was present in the defeat of Gen. Josiah Harmer's army, but he did take part in the siege of Fort Meigs. He was in command of the right wing of the British-Indian army at the battle of the Thames near Chatham, Ont., Oct. 5, 1813 and was shot to death in that conflict. Tecumseh is credited with inducing the Miamis to give up the practice of human sacrifice.

Chief Little Turtle, a Miami chief, played a prominent part in Indian affairs. He participated in the defeat of the Harmer and St. Clair expeditions. By then Little Turtle's influence was at its height. But when General (Mad Anthony) Wayne led his army into the territory, the wily chief knew he was dealing with a different type of military man. "We cannot expect good fortune always," he told an Indian council. "Wayne never sleeps. We are never able to surprise him. Think well. Something whispers to me, listen to peace."

Little Turtle's remarks angered his fellow chiefs, who accused him of cowardice. Nevertheless, he led his Indians into the Battle of Fallen Timbers. His prediction of disaster was correct.

Wayne won a great victory. Little Turtle took part in the signing of the treaty at Greene Ville.

Becoming friends with the Americans, the famous chief went east in style, visiting New York and Philadelphia. He even sat for his portrait. Coming back to this area, he retired to the Eel River, near Fort Wayne. The U. S. government built him a home where he died July 14, 1812. He is buried near Fort Wayne.

Little Turtle was of a sour and morose disposition, crafty and subtle. Incidentally, he may have been America's first active prohibitionist. He would constantly warn his redskins against drinking alcoholic beverages. Little Turtle has a strong tie with Toledo and Maumee. While he was a chief, some of his followers caught two small white boys, one of them being



*Chief Tecumseh*

William Wells. Little Turtle liked William and finally adopted him. Later Wells married Sweet Breeze, daughter of Little Turtle. Their daughter married James Wolcott, who built the famous Wolcott home on River Road.



*Little Turtle*

to reorganize his Indian forces and continue the fight against the Americans. Failing, he participated in the Treaty of Greene Ville. He then went in the liquor business at Wapakoneta. Blue Jacket died in Kansas in 1832.

Tarke, the Crane, was called that by his friends be-

cause he was a lean, sinewy man, and had great endurance. A Wyandot chief, Tarke was an outstanding leader. He sided with Little Turtle in urging the Indians not to attempt anything drastic against Wayne. He was wounded in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Tarke was the first chief to sign the Treaty of Greene Ville. In the War of 1812, he pledged friendship with the Americans and fought against fellow Indians and British in the Battle of the Thames.

Blackhoof, a Shawnee chief, was one of the great orators among the redskins and an implacable foe of the white man. He attacked boats on the Ohio River, participated in St. Clair's defeat and took part in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Later he occupied a cabin south of the mouth of Loramie Creek near a spring now called Blackhoof Spring. The site is not far from St. John's, and is about five miles from Wapakoneta. Blackhoof is buried near St. John's.

Ellskwatama, the Prophet, was a brother of Tecumseh and helped the latter immeasurably. He became less popular with his fellow redskins after the Battle of Tippecanoe. It is not known when or where he died. Cornstalk, Captain Pipe, Captain Logan and White Eyes were other famous Indian chiefs who prowled this area early in the 19th Century.

## *Lively History of First Fort in Ohio*

A 10-foot split stone monument on the northern shore of Sandusky Bay, about two miles from Port Clinton, marks the spot where the white man built his fort in what is now the state of Ohio.

For the most part the scene is quiet—almost desolate. Except in summer, when a few trailers park nearby on the beach, few persons visit the spot at the southern end of Fulton St., once called the Sandusky-Scioto trail. Here on this spot three different forts were built. Once the fort not only was burned but all but one of its garrison massacred.

In days long ago the site of Fort Sandoski—as it was named—was a busy place. First the Indians, then the French, would portage across the Marblehead peninsula at this point. If southbound, they would cross the bay, then by the way of Sandusky and Scioto Rivers, reach the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Northbound, they would cross the peninsula and then either follow the shore westward to the Maumee, thence northward along the shore, or cut across Lake Erie via the numerous islands. Or they would follow the eastern shore to the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers.

The north-sound passageway was first known as the Sandusky-Scioto Route, then later as the Harrison Trail

in the War of 1812. There is a marker at the northern end of the trail (where Fulton St. meets Rt. 2).

The trip across the peninsula eventually became known as the De Lery portage because a Frenchman, Chevalier Chassugros de Lery, landed near this spot in 1754 and wrote about it in his journal. He was a member of an expedition of 285 officers and men.

In time, an Indian village was established at the portage by a Huron chief named Oron-tony, whose baptismal name was Nicholas. He had come from Detroit, and immediately courted English aid. In 1745

Nicolas, or Nicholas, as his name frequently was spelled, permitted some Pennsylvania colonists to build a block-house and trading post, which was given the name of Fort Sandoski. This was the first fort built by white men in Ohio. The chief's action alarmed the French. When the French commander at Detroit heard about it, he notified his commanding officer at Quebec. Back came the order that the English must go.

This did not suit the Indian leader, who promptly plotted a conspiracy. He called on the Indian tribes—



*Sandoski Stone*

the Hurons, Miamis, Ottawas, Shawnees, Chippewas and Pottawattomies—to help him exterminate the French. Under his plan the Miamis and Wyandots would kill off the French in the Maumee River area; the Pottawattomies were assigned the Bois Blanc islands, while Nicolas would attack Detroit.

To carry out Nicolas' plan a party of Hurons were to sleep in the fort and houses at Detroit, and each was to kill his hosts upon signal. The date set for the outbreak was one of the holidays of Pentecost. But some of the Indians, without waiting for the plan to develop fully, committed some depredations, including several murders. Suspicious, the French called for reinforcements. Then a death blow was given to the conspiracy when an Indian girl revealed the plan to a Jesuit priest. The French let the Indians know that they knew their plans and that was the end of that. Nicolas was fortunate—he was able to get immunity for himself and his Indians.

A French expedition into the Ohio territory in 1751 forced the English to flee, and the invaders occupied Fort Sandoski. Then the French decided to build another fort on the right bank of the Sandusky River and Fort Sandoski was abandoned. A few years later, however, following the French surrender at Quebec, the English rebuilt Fort Sandoski.

In 1763 Pontiac, the great Indian chief, planned a

conspiracy—the main purpose of which was to drive the white men from their lands. The French added their bit by telling him the British planned to exterminate the Indian race.

Fort Sandoski at that time was garrisoned by 15 men commanded by an Ensign Pauli. On May 18, 1763, Ensign Pauli was informed that seven Indians were waiting at the gate to speak to him. He ordered them brought to him, as he knew several of them personally. When the Indians entered his headquarters, one seated himself on each side of Pauli. At a signal, the ensign was seized and disarmed. Outside there was much confusion, yelling and firing of weapons. When it ended, all 15 soldiers were dead and Ensign Pauli was a captive. The captive officer was conducted to a canoe and as he paddled away, the fort burst into flame.

The officer was taken to an Indian village where he was pelted with stones and sticks and forced to dance and sing. Then an old squaw, whose husband had died, adopted him. Fortunately for Pauli he was able to escape not long afterward. When British relief finally arrived, Fort Sandoski was in ruins. Bodies of the murdered garrison were strewn about.

Pontiac's plan might have succeeded but for the fact peace was signed between Great Britain and France, and he was informed the French no longer would sup-

port his activities against the English. The conspiracy collapsed. Later he was murdered.

Fort Sandoski never regained its prominence as a military or trading post. For decades, there was not even a marker to indicate the site. But in 1912, the present monument was provided by funds raised by the Business Men's Association of Port Clinton. The tablets describing the importance of Fort Sandoski and its fate were provided by the Ohio Society, Colonel Dames of America, and the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society.

### *Protestant Mission Valley's First*

The first Protestant mission in the Maumee Valley was established in 1822 at the spot where Tontogany Creek empties into the Maumee River near Grand Rapids. It had a comparatively short life—12 years—but during its operation, 92 Indian children were given religious and educational instruction and when it closed in 1834, there were 32 pupils attending.

The previous missionary work done by the Rev. Joseph Badger, who had been chaplain in Gen. William H. Harrison's army, was a factor in establishment of the mission. The missionary society owned the farm

where the mission was built. It assigned the young Rev. Isaac Van Tassel to head the project. But his departure for the mission was delayed until he could attend a little personal matter—his wedding to Lucia



*Old Protestant Mission*

Badger, daughter of the missionary. That took place in the summer of 1822, and Mr. Van Tassel immediately left with a party of nine persons for the mission farm on the Maumee.



The group reached Sandusky Oct. 26 and left two days later aboard a small schooner, which nearly capsized in a storm before it reached Maumee Bay. The party finally arrived at the Rapids. The next day Mr. Van Tassel and a Mr. Barnes, another missionary who had joined the group, left for the mission site to see what should be done.

Then began the task of clearing the ground and building the first structure, a hewn log affair 16 by 60 feet. The entire party, numbering 13 members and some hired help, arrived on the site later to put up more buildings. They were completed and the mission began actual operations on Nov. 26, 1822.

It consisted of a main building 30 by 80 feet, two stories high, with an annex 20 by 100 feet. A large cellar and well were dug, and an apple orchard was planted. With the mission opening, the task began of Christianizing the Indians in the area and teaching them something of agriculture. As many as 50 took instruction at one time.

The mission church was organized in 1823 with a membership of 24, nine of them Indians. All promised to abstain from alcohol. The missionaries had tough sledding from the beginning. While the Indians did not directly antagonize them, their general attitude encumbered the missionaries in their work. Many would get drunk after being paid.

Nor did the white traders help. They not only would sell alcohol to the Indians, but they also tried to persuade the Indians to keep their children from school. The Indians never had been restrained in their behavior before, and sitting in a classroom did not especially appeal to the youngsters. Some would stay only a day or two, then leave.

The mission was transferred to the United Foreign Missionary Society Oct. 25, 1825, and in June, 1826, was consolidated with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Affairs.

The mission closed in 1834 when the Indians gave up their lands in the Maumee Valley and were transferred west, in accord with a treaty.

Mr. Van Tassel and his wife continued to live in the building for several years and conducted a school for white children. After Mr. Van Tassel died and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Bowling Green, his widow wrote:

"It has been said that the Maumee Mission was a failure. If the hopeful conversion of about 30 souls and the triumphant deaths of at least nine of these who were known to the missionaries to have died trusting in the Saviour, besides much seed sown . . . was not worth the few thousands expended there, then might the mission be called a failure.

"The Indians were at first shy and distrustful; they

could not believe that white people intended them any good. As they became acquainted, however, they were very, very friendly and never gave us any trouble by stealing or committing any depredation."

All of the buildings are gone now. The mission is only a memory today.

### *Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, Once a Civil War Prison*

Interest has been centered in literary circles in recent months on a fictionalized account of the ill-famed prison camp at Andersonville, Ga. In vivid language its author has described the horrors of this prison; how literally hundreds of Union soldiers died there of starvation and exposure.

There may be more of passing interest locally in Andersonville because, less than 60 miles east of Toledo, on Johnson's Island, there was another prison camp, occupied by Confederate officers, and a far different type from Andersonville.

The South may blush about conditions at Andersonville and Libby Prison; the North need make no apology for Johnson's Island, and the authority for that

statement are the letters and articles of some who were imprisoned on the island.

Johnson's Island is a bit of land of 286 acres, lying in Sandusky Bay, three miles north of Sandusky. Before



*Johnson's Island — 1956*

the territory was settled by the white man, it was a favorite resort for the Indians who loved to hunt there and fish in the bay. Its first white owner was E. W.

Bull, and for a time the island was known as Bull's Island. An attempt to found a town there failed. In 1852 Mr. Bull sold the island to L. B. Johnson and thereafter the place has been known as Johnson's Island. Early in 1862 the U.S. Government leased the island and built a prison there. The first prisoners arrived in April of that year.

The stockade encompassed 18 acres. The prison consisted of a 12-foot fence, with a platform top and two blockhouses. There were 13 buildings, each room of which was heated by a large stove. There also were 16 acres of open space. Inside the buildings the bunks were in tiers of three and furnished with bed ticks filled with straw. Two men were assigned each bunk and each prisoner was given a blanket. For cooking and heating purposes, each prisoner was given a ration of wood and an ax and bucksaw to cut it up. In fact about the most fatiguing duty the prisoners had to do was sawing their own wood for their own comfort. Guards kept them supplied, too, with newspapers—northern, of course—for reading and to start fires.

There was the usual deadline a few feet inside the stockade. Guards were given orders to shoot anybody who attempted to pass it and they did not fail to carry out the orders. One attempt at a mass escape was made, and a prisoner, son of a Louisville, Ky., banker, was killed. After roll call there was little to do except to

cut up the wood, or engage in some hobby. Some of the prisoners made things from wood and shells, such as charms, rings, pins, and furniture. Some others who had a theatrical bent would put on plays, or minstrel shows. In the winter, however, the cold weather caused the inmates to stay indoors and close to the stoves. The guards consisted of Ohio militiamen, probably no better or worse than militiamen from other states. However, they seemed to get along well with the prisoners.

Maybe it was because they had nearly starved at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and on short rations elsewhere, that the prisoners seldom complained of the food the first two years. They were fed corn meal, white flour, bread, butter, ham, bacon, beef, beans and hominy and could buy milk for six cents a quart. They also could receive food packages from friends and relatives.

In 1864, when the North became incensed over conditions at Andersonville and other southern prisons, the Confederate prisoners felt the reaction. All packages, food or otherwise, coming from the outside were rejected by the guards, and the prisoners' rations were drastically cut. One prisoner made himself popular by baking biscuits. "I had fried ham, gravy and coffee and it didn't go badly, I assure you," wrote one Confederate prisoner to his relatives, soon after his capture. Another said the food was "abundant." But it was the cold winds that sweep across Sandusky Bay in the

winter that made life uncomfortable for the prisoners, most of whom had come north clad only in thin cotton uniforms, unsuited for frigid blasts. It is not surprising they remained indoors hugging the big stoves in the winter months.

During its operation from April, 1862, to September, 1865, a total of 15,000 men were confined at the Johnson's Island prison. They were mostly officers and ranged in rank from second lieutenants to major generals. The greatest number ever confined at one time was in December, 1864, when the prison roster carried 3,209 names.

The type of prisoners kept there depends on a personal viewpoint. One writer said they represented the chivalry of the South, largely professional men and planters, many prominent in science, literature and art. One wrote to a Memphis newspaper that the island was a "salubrious place." But a prison guard wrote home that "most of the prisoners were captured in Kentucky. They are mostly bushwackers and not a very intelligent looking set. I assure you they resemble the 'Last Rose of Summer' run over by a small wagon."

There is some dispute among historians whether anybody ever escaped from the prison. It is true several were shot or hanged for military crimes. The most daring plan to free the prisoners failed because of the blundering actions of one of the participants, C. H.

Cole. He and a man named John Yates Beall conspired to capture or immobilize the Michigan, an 18-gun Union ship that patrolled Sandusky Bay. Cole, posing as a Titusville, Pa., oil man, registered in the old West House, Sandusky, with a woman posing as his wife. He was to make friends with officers of the Michigan, get them to be guests at a dinner and give them drugged wine so the Michigan could be seized.

Beall and some other southern sympathizers boarded the steamer Philo Parsons at Detroit and at Malden, Ont. Near Kelleys Island the conspirators opened a trunk containing arms, which they had toted aboard and covered the officers. They forced the pilot to take the boat to Middle Bass Island, where another ship, the Island Queen, was tied up. They put off the passengers. The two ships were tied together, but after a few miles the Island Queen was scuttled and turned loose.

Now the Philo Parsons continued to Sandusky Bay where it hoped to meet the Michigan, supposedly then in the hands of their fellow conspirators. But Cole's



*Honoring Dead*

plot had been discovered and he had been arrested in Sandusky. When Beall and others aboard the Philo Parsons failed to get any signal as they approached the bay, they became frightened, and putting on all steam headed for Canada, scuttled the ship and disappeared. Beall later was arrested at Niagara Falls, taken to New York and hanged. Cole was kept in custody until the end of the war, then released.

At war's end, the island prison was abandoned, and all of the buildings but a blockhouse torn down. The blockhouse was used by the owner to house pigs. The cemetery containing 206 graves had a better fate. From 1881 to 1907 it was cared for by McMeen's Post, GAR, in Sandusky. In 1889 a group of Georgia residents visited the cemetery and noting the wooden markers were in bad shape, replaced them with marble ones. In 1907 the plot was purchased by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and in 1910 a monument was erected in memory of those who had died on the island. In 1933 the Federal Government bought the site.

The remainder of the island recently was purchased by a Cleveland group and is to be subdivided into lots.

### *Battle of Thames Marked End of British Supremacy in the Northwest Territory*

Possibly some day this summer you will be driving eastward along Queen's Highway No. 2 in the Province of Ontario, Canada. As you near the little city of Chatham, on the right side of the road, you will see a monument commemorating the Battle of the Thames, fought Oct. 5, 1813. It also marks the spot where the noted Indian chief Tecumseh met death.

The late summer of 1813 found the English fleet in command of Lake Erie, Detroit in the hands of the British and the American inhabitants of the Northwest Territory in constant fear of invasion. Then within less than two months, the situation was completely reversed. Not only were the Americans victorious over the British; they delivered what proved to be knockout blows.

Gen. William H. Harrison and his army was at Sandusky Bay early in September, ready to attack Detroit and invade Canada, but not until the British fleet was put out of commission. Then, on Sept. 10, 1813, the little American fleet commanded by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry sailed forth from Put-In-Bay, and a few miles northwest of the western Lake Erie islands, won a smashing victory. And one of the factors in that victory was the fact that Commodore Perry had placed some of General Harrison's sharpshooters in the rig-



gings of his ships. Their accurate rifle fire did much to confuse the enemy.

As soon as General Harrison heard the good news, he prepared to carry out his campaign plans. The little ships of Commodore Perry were used to transport the American army across Lake Erie from Port Clinton, landing on the Canadian shore near Malden.

The enemy, aware of the defeat of their navy, had evacuated Malden after destroying military installations and supplies. General Harrison was eager to pursue the retreating British. But first he sent a Colonel MacArthur across the Detroit River with 700 men to occupy Detroit. That was Sept. 25. The next day General Harrison's army was reinforced by Col. Richard M. Johnson's regiment of Kentuckians. This gave the American leader an army of 3500 men.

Gen. Henry Proctor of the British forces had stopped his flight several times, but whenever American patrols neared, he would order his army eastward again. This caused Tecumseh to call him a coward and finally to threaten to withdraw his Indians unless General Proctor made a stand against the invaders. So, on the afternoon of Oct. 5, a short distance west of Chatham, Proctor prepared to fight. One wing of his army rested on the Thames; Tecumseh and his Indians comprised another wing.

The American army steadily advanced. Then the

bugles blew the charge and General Harrison's men, led by Colonel Johnson's mounted troops, hurled themselves against the enemy. Lieut. Col. John Donaldson, with more Kentuckians, went to Johnson's support,

"Remember the River Raisin," shouted the Kentuckians. Their cry recalling the horrible massacre at Frenchtown (Monroe, Mich.). Their cry was taken up by the remainder of the army, which attacked with renewed vigor. The Indians, frightened by the savage attack, broke and fled. Chief Tecumseh was fatally shot. Legend has it that Colonel Johnson, who later was to become vice president, fired the bullet that killed Tecumseh, but the fact never was positively settled.

After Tecumseh fell, the Indians continued fighting until they were flanked. Their lines broke and soon the British-Indians were in flight, led by General Proctor who sped away so fast that in 24 hours he made 65 miles. Colonel Johnson was wounded but recovered. The British lost 48 soldiers and 33 Indians killed and 477 captured. The American loss was 47 killed.

The battle ended the war in the northwest, although another important British outpost was not surrendered until after the Treaty of Ghent in December, 1814. When peace came, the British northwest confederacy had been destroyed. The British power in Upper Canada broken, and Detroit was a part of the American nation.

## *Anthony Wayne's Famed Pact With Indians Opened Up Territory to White Man*

Greenville—a small Ohio city straddling U.S. Rt. 127 in Darke County—was the scene of the most historic gathering of Indian chiefs in the history of this nation.

The occasion was the signing of the treaty following Gen. Anthony Wayne's campaign into the Northwest Territory which culminated in his famous victory at Fallen Timbers near Maumee.

The Indians had been giving the Americans plenty of trouble until they met up with Wayne—hero of Stony Point in the Revolutionary War. They had defeated Gen. Arthur St. Clair at the present site of Fort Recovery, and had humbled Gen. Joshia Harmar at Fort Wayne, Ind. But at Fallen Timbers, they met their match and were roundly trounced on August 20, 1794. The Indians were

termed "The Wind," because his army moved so fast and struck so hard. General Wayne had built a strong outpost at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers which he called Fort Defiance. At the scene of St. Clair's defeat, he built another strong fort he called Fort Recovery. But it was at Greene Ville as it then was called, that he established his headquarters and based his army. The fort he built bordered on Greenville Creek.

By December, 1794, the Chippewas, Ottawas, Pottawatomies and Miamis began making peace overtures at Greene Ville, and on Jan. 24, 1795, the Delawares, Wyandottes and Shawnees entered into preliminary articles with Wayne looking toward a permanent peace in the summer. It was agreed that General Wayne would meet with the Indians in June of that year.

Early in June, 1795, the chiefs began arriving and by August a total of 1,130 tribesmen were encamped near the fort. Immediately upon arriving they began negotiating with General Wayne. Tarke, the Crane, a chief of the Wyandottes, urged General Wayne to listen to them, referring to a treaty his tribe had signed with General St. Clair on the Muskingum River some time before.

General Wayne had some advice of his own—he told the Indians they should quit listening to the British who were merely trying to stir up trouble for their own



*Anthony Wayne*

greatly impressed by the ability of Wayne whom they

benefit. He said they had been badly advised and had been given false promises of assistance in fighting his country. He said the Muskingum treaty had the elements of a fair and just peace. He promised the Indians at Greene Ville good treatment, safe conduct and a cordial welcome.

On June 23, Little Turtle, most powerful of all the chiefs, arrived. As leader of the Indians who had defeated St. Clair and Harmar, he was the principal red-skin to deal with. On July 15, General Wayne assembled the general council and presented the Calumet of Peace, the peace pipe. He impressed upon the Indians the importance of the council and what was at stake. Little Turtle said the Muskingum treaty was not binding because it was signed by the Six Nations, not those assembled at Greene Ville.

On July 18, Massas, a Chippewa chief and Chief Blue Jacket, a Shawnee, arrived. Massas brought with him a copy of the Muskingum treaty, admitting it had not been faithfully followed.

Little Turtle demanded to know what lands had been ceded.

"I expect lands on the Wabash and in his country to belong to me and my brothers," he said. "You have pointed out the boundary line between the Indians and the Fifteen Nations. Now I take the liberty to inform you that that line cuts off from the Indians a large

portion of that country which had been enjoyed by my forefathers from time immemorial without molestation or dispute. Prints of my ancestor's houses are every-



*Signing Greene Ville Treaty*

where in this portion." He told how his forefathers had kindled the first fire at Detroit, and how they had extended their lines south to the Scioto and then to Lake Michigan.

The boundary line finally agreed to began at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, up the stream to the portage crossing to the Tuscarawas River, down that river to Fort Laurens, then southwesterly to a point on the Ohio shore opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River, enclosing about two-thirds of the present state of Ohio and a triangular piece of southeastern Indiana. Besides this large territory, tracts including the present sites of Chicago, Detroit, Mackinac, Fort Wayne, Toledo, Sandusky and Defiance were ceded.

Altogether the Indians ceded 25,000 square miles to the U.S., besides 16 separate tracts, for which they received \$20,000 and were promised an annual allowance of \$9,500.

The conclave lasted 50 days and the treaty was signed on Aug. 3, 1795. The U.S. Senate ratified it on Dec. 22. The treaty ended warfare for 16 years and opened the territory to settlement. Fort Greene Ville was abandoned and burned in 1796, but in 1808 the present city of Greenville was laid out.

2260





